Canadian Manhood

(Continuing "IDEAL MEN")

Published quarterly by the
National Council of Young Men's Christian Associations of Canada
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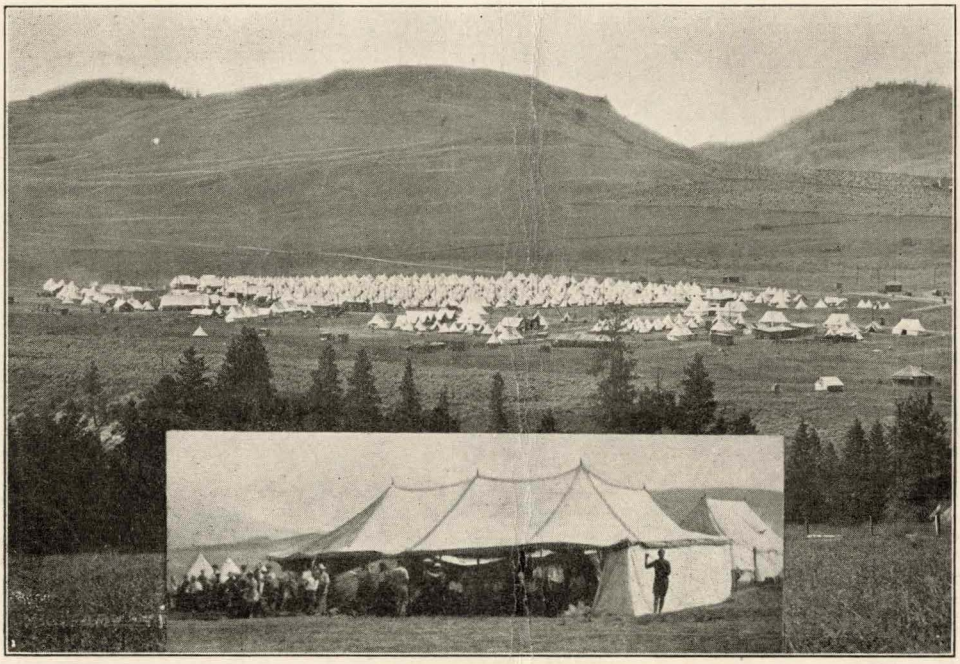

Vernon, B.C., Military Camp. Insert Shows Y.M.C.A. Tents.

Toronto's Membership Campaign

The recent campaign for members for the Central, Broadview and West End Y. M. C. A.'s was highly successful, and one result was the purchasing by all branches of additional steel equipment.

We are glad to state this business was secured by us. We provided the entire complement of Tote-boxes, Lockers, Shelving, Stools and Tote-box Poles necessary for the accommodation of the new members.

To us it seems this is good evidence of the quality of our goods.

May we serve you? Our years of experience in this particular line are at your disposal without obligation of any kind. Suggestions, sketches, illustrations and prices promptly furnished.

THE DENNIS WIRE AND IRON WORKS CO. LIMITED
LONDON
CANADA

TORONTO OFFICE: 2 DINEEN BUILDING

LARGEST MAKERS OF Y. M. C. A. STEEL EQUIPMENT

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CANADIAN MANHOOD

(Continuing "Ideal Men")

Published quarterly by the NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF CANADA, 15 Toronto Street, Toronto, Canada.

Publication Committee:

Messrs. FRANK YEIGH, Chairman; CHARLES W. BISHOP, Editor; HENRY YEIGH, Business Manager.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TWENTY-FIVE CENTS PER YEAR.

VOL. II. NEW SERIES TORONTO, CANADA, DECEMBER, 1915 NO. 4

EDITORIAL

The Christmas Message. For a second time the Christmas message will be proclaimed to a world whose ears are filled with the din of strife. Once again we must sing of goodwill and peace while we are giving all our strength to the business of war. Will it be any easier to sing it than it was a year ago? Will it be any easier to discern the song of the angels above the deafening roar of battle? Yes; it will be easier, because we believe more in goodwill than we did a year ago, and the nature of true and lasting peace is more clear than ever before. True peace is not that which is purchased at any price, but that which is based on righteousness and justice. Therefore the song of the angels needs not to be muffled because our armies are marching and our cannons are roaring, but it needs to be sung more persuasively, more tenderly, over those who war and who are tempted to hate until goodwill shall assert its supremacy.

Jesus saw more clearly than any other that the pathway to peace would lead through valleys of strife. He said quietly to His disciples, "Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars," and "Nation shall rise against nation and Kingdom against Kingdom," and added in expanation, "these things are but the beginning of travail." And then as if to answer the query, "What then is to be brought forth by this travail?" He said, "And the Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached throughout all the inhabited earth; and then shall the end come."

The true echo then to the song of the angels is the coming of the Kingdom of Christ on earth. And so to those whose eyes discern its outlines and whose lives are devoted to its coming, the message of peace is heard above the strife and goodwill abides in their hearts undisturbed by the storm that rages without.

1916. What has this year in store for us? Never were we so keen to see ahead. It may bring peace. Some believe it will bring plenty,—the plenty that war business produces. But whatever it may bring, there is one thing that we know it will bring to all who seek to serve, and that is opportunity. We stood with more uncertainty on the brink of 1915 and predicted many possibilities, but the one that came with most unfailing fulfilment was—opportunity. If that is the lesson from the backward look, what does it teach us as we turn to face the future? It teaches us to cease our fears and give less time to painting possibilities and get ready for our opportunities.

To our Association Movement, the year 1916 brings opportunities to serve our soldiers on a larger and more fruitful scale than ever. What may not this year demon-

strate of the power of Christ in our armies? It will bring opportunities to enlist volunteer service on a scale never before possible. It will bring on us crises in some of our Association buildings that will test our faith, our endurance and our energy. It will give us all another and better opportunity to prove that if we "seek first the Kingdom"—the winning of boys and men to Christ—"all these things"—the saving of buildings and the raising of budgets—"shall be added."

The Foreign Work and the War. A certain Canadian contributor to the Foreign Work of the Association has discovered how closely that work is linked with the war. He has been generously carrying the budget of a young Canadian secretary who has been working in India. That secretary to-day is found at the head of the Y.M.C.A. Staff accompanying the famous British Expedition in Mesapotamia. This Canadian supporter finds his support this year going to one of the most patriotic services being rendered to British forces, and has the rare satisfaction of doing something of his bit in this way.

This interesting development illustrates the way in which certain parts of the Foreign Work are adapting themselves to the war. Not only this secretary, but many of the best of the Association force in the Indian Empire are serving with the troops in Egypt and France. The secretaries in Constantinople have turned to war service. The pioneer staff in Russia have been turned to work among soldiers and prisoners. In fact, no small part of the budget of the Foreign Department of the International Committee is this year in reality a contribution to Military work.

This fact will add in Canada at least to the enthusiasm with which we throw ourselves into the raising of our share of the finances for Foreign Work, though this should not be needed as the duty and privilege of sustaining the outposts in foreign lands is great enough without it. We hope to find that in this year, in spite of absorbing national interests, our Canadian Associations have not fallen behind the amount which the Foreign Department have come to look upon as our share. During this closing month of the year, the burden on that great department, as it strains every muscle to close its year according to its record, should have a foremost place in our thought and in our prayers.

A Great Membership Campaign. The recent membership campaign in Toronto is one of the outstanding achievements of the year, and an important step of progress in the solution of that difficult problem. The facts of the campaign are interesting and the results an undoubted tribute to the efficiency of the Toronto Associations. No less than eight hundred and thirty-four workers were enlisted in the effort. The organization was the most complete and smooth working ever achieved in the Association work in Canada. The objective was for three thousand members in six days. The result was four thousand, two hundred and ninety-five, or 40 per cent. more than the objective.

Its importance in relation to the membership problem as it faces all Associations is in the principles that governed it. First, its motive was proclaimed in its slogan, "Men, not money." Second, the effort was not undertaken until the Associations were in a well-organized condition to receive and assimilate the great influx of members. Third, no detail was neglected to make the organization as perfect as a human organization can be. And fourth, the Board and members rallied with an enthusiasm for the effort and a conviction of the great value of the Association, which made the cause their own and gave power to their persuasion.

This demonstration is an example from which every Canadian Association can learn, and our membership problem should be easier of solution in the days to come.

The Initiative Resolution. The General Secretaries will please remember that the dates for the recording of their vote on this important matter are December 15th, 1915, to January 1st, 1916, and that ballots must be signed and returned by *registered mail.* Any Secretary wishing duplicate ballots may obtain them by application at this office.

Y.M.C.A.

WITH HIS MAJESTY'S CANADIAN FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

FOR GOD, FOR KING, AND FOR COUNTRY

THE WORK IN CANADA.

APPRECIATED BY MILITIA DEPARTMENT.

Department of Militia and Defence, Ottawa, Canada, 20th October, 1915.

Dear Colonel Langton,—

I have to acknowledge receipt of your statement of the Young Men's Christian Association's Military Service Department for the year ending 1st July, 1915.

I would like to say to you that our Minister, Major-General Hon. Sir Sam Hughes, K.C.B., and the Department as a whole are keenly sensitive of the splendid work your Association has been doing in many ways in connection with our Overseas Force in Canada, England and on the Continent.

You have our best wishes for the further success of your good work.

Faithfully yours,

(Sgd.) D. A. MACDONALD.

Lieut.-Colonel J. G. Langton, C.A.S.C.,
Toronto, Ontario.

FURTHER GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.

Other generous gifts of stationery and printing have been received since our last issue, as follows:

E. B. Eddy Co., letterheads.
National Paper Co., envelopes.
Ritchie & Ramsay, stock for postcards.
The Armac Press, printing.
The Bryant Press, printing.

A Y.M.C.A. ON A TROOP TRAIN ACROSS CANADA.

By courtesy of the three great transcontinental railway systems, the Canadian Pacific, Grand Trunk and Canadian Northern Railways, the Western Division of the National Council of the Young Men's Christian Associations have been able since war was declared to send an Association representative on more than twenty-five troop trains conveying the soldiers of Western Canada from points in the Western Provinces between the Pacific coast and Winnipeg to the Atlantic seaboard. These representatives were young laymen, mostly from the Winnipeg Association, or secretaries of military branches in the West. The following extracts from one of the reports illustrates both the type of service rendered and the great appreciation of both officers and men.

"Carson and he very kindly presented me to Capt. ———, the officer commanding. I gave him my letter of introduction, which confirmed my statements as to who I was and what I represented. Capt. ——— gave me a cordial welcome and we entered the car used as an officers' orderly room, where I met the other officers.

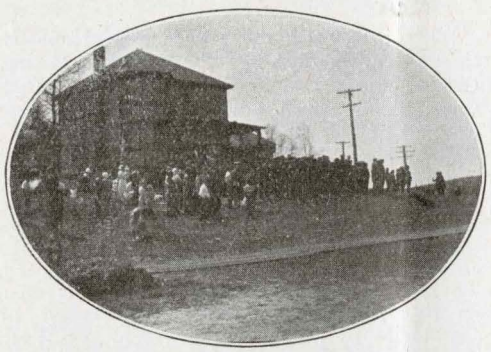
"They were all much interested in my mission. As the train moved out of Winnipeg I asked permission of the officer commanding to see the men. This was granted and Sergeant-Major ——— was asked to take me through the three cars containing the ninety-four men. I told these men briefly why I was there and what I hoped to do for them. They were all delighted at the prospect of having a more interesting time during the balance of their journey across the continent. As it was getting late I told them I would make the necessary arrangements with the officer commanding and see them again in the morning.

The material distributed to the men was as follows: 700 letterheads, 600 envelopes, 600 cards, 100 old magazines (distributed by ladies at Winnipeg station), 125 old magazines (from Y.M.C.A. at Ottawa and Halifax), 50 pledge cards, 50 soldiers' Bibles, 200 prayer cards (100 A and 100 B), 25 song books, 25 aluminum swear pledges, 2,000 stamps, 6 sets checker men, 6 checker boards, 50 C.P.R. timetables, 25 I.C.R. timetables.

The day after leaving Winnipeg, and again after leaving Ottawa, where a fresh supply of reading matter was secured, the magazines were re-distributed among the three cars so that each man had a chance to see each magazine.

A brief account of the interesting features of the trip may be acceptable in this report.

The men were never allowed their freedom while train was stopped at any station. If the stop was long enough they were marched up and down the platform for exercise, so that wherever stores were at a convenient



Troops Detained at White River for Sunday Service, Chaplain Gordon (Ralph Connor).

distance there were always several items to be purchased for the men and at Sudbury I sprinted two blocks to the post office for a thirty-cent postal note. Acts of this kind were greatly appreciated by the men, and when I first intimated my desire to do this kind of work, the men gave vent to such expressions as "Well, you are certainly needed," "You are a man sent by Providence," etc.

In one of the cars I met Pte. ———, a member of Victoria Y.M.C.A. He was a very energetic fellow and introduced me personally to all the men in his car, they being mostly from Victoria. He rendered great assistance in carrying on the work and it is with pleasure that I here acknowledge his services.

In many personal talks with the men, I found others as well as my Victoria friend, who were leading Christian lives and their influence was very strong with all the other men. I was told that before leaving Calgary, where a number of these men enlisted, Staff Sergt. ———, who had charge of one of the three cars, led a most impressive meeting in the Salvation Army building of that city, the meeting being mostly of soldiers.

The second evening on the train we arranged for a concert. The programme consisted of fourteen numbers, including songs, solos, monologues, music by cornet, mandolin, violin and mouth organ. I gave a short talk on Y.M.C.A. work. All enter heartily into an evening of this nature, and the officer commanding complimented the men on the talent displayed. We concluded with "God Save the King."

I had been sending telegrams to friends and relatives of the men with permission of the officer commanding, and one of these resulted in the meeting of father and son at Pembroke station. The C.P.R. passenger agent took the father to the rear of the train. The old father seemed proud of his soldier boy—but the tears did not cease to flow down his furrowed cheeks.

I was also able to arrange a meeting between two brothers while we were being transferred to the I.C.R. at Western Junction, which took place Thursday night, April 29th.

The following night (Friday) we held a second concert. We were travelling through New Brunswick at this time and we had been told by the I.C.R. official travelling with us that the band at Moncton was extremely patriotic and never failed to meet every troop train, so a number of the men remained up to see this famous band. As we arrived at Moncton at 2 a.m. we were, therefore, not surprised to hear the strains of martial music coming from the most energetic band I ever heard. They played for half an hour and managed to get through every piece of patriotic music belonging to the Allies.

We reached Halifax at 12.20 Saturday noon and the men were marched onto the waiting vessel at once. During the afternoon I purchased all the articles listed and took them to the men on board vessel, which was to leave at 10 p.m. that night. I returned at this hour and bid the officers and men "Bon Voyage." The officer commanding expressed his appreciation of the work I had done for the men and the men expressed their thanks in rousing cheers for myself and for the Y.M.C.A.

My duties were at an end, but the stern duties of these brave and gallant men who had answered the call of their country had barely begun.

THE WORK OVERSEAS.

Recent letters from Major Gerald W. Birks show the valuable services he is rendering the Militia Service Department in Great Britain and France. The Canadian representatives greatly appreciate his presence and helpful counsel.

The following reports from the overseas representatives are full of interest. Again and again they ask continuance in prayer on their behalf.

Extract from a letter from Capt. Pearson dated October 1st:

"The supply of reading matter for our troops continues to be altogether inadequate to the need. I notice in Canadian papers recently received that some people are collecting a lot of money for tobacco, cigarettes, etc., as a Christmas present to the men here. Would you have any way of bringing to the attention of these kind folks the following facts: More tobacco is being received than can be smoked, regular issues being made every Saturday; pipes and tobacco are received more or less regularly from the various Comfort Funds in England; cigarette papers are not of any value, as only a very small percentage of the men roll their own smokes. We have never been able to supply the men with one-tenth of the amount of reading matter which they require and boys will walk miles to secure the torn fragment of a magazine or book, in the hope that their surroundings can be forgotten over a good story. A few dozen copies weekly of such reading matter as is contained in 'Saturday Evening Post' and similar periodicals would mean more to these boys than all the tobacco in Canada. I believe in the soldiers getting all the tobacco they can use, but I know they are getting more than can be used."

(The Above Cut is of the Identical Note Referred to by Capt. Best.)

From Capt. Best's letter, dated Belgium, October 9th, 1915:

" . . . I am enclosing a £1 note, and this is its history: Forgie was very kind to Pte. Potter, of the 7th Battalion, and who was killed. Chaplain Barton buried him and wrote his people. They were so grateful for the kind treatment he received at the Y.M.C.A. through Forgie that they sent this identical pound note to the chaplain, to be presented to the Y.M.C.A. as a small token of their appreciation of the good work they are doing. I met Chaplain Barton to-day and he insisted upon my taking the pound and reporting it to the Y.M.C.A. at home."

Extract from letter of Capt. J. M. McKendrick, dated October 2nd, 1915:

" . . . During the last weeks at Otterpool, the men began to get more serious—one could almost feel the tenseness as they began to realize that soon we would be in France, and consequently our work was more intensive. I first began to notice it during our divisional manoeuvres when we were bivouacked out. The men for the most part were too tired to participate in any kind of recreation, so we had sing-songs and repeatedly the men would ask for hymns to be sung, and then they would want to have a personal conversation, and what talks I had! what surprises as men regarded as 'tough nuts' would themselves raise the question of their relationship with Jesus Christ!

"One such case I'd like to mention because he afterwards became one of our first casualties. He was a good fellow, a most likeable man, a boon companion, a prince of fellows. He always had a coterie of so-called 'friends' around him; he had been on intimate terms with me since he joined last December. He was a beautiful singer and often assisted me at sing-songs. He came to me one night and asked for five minutes. I readily granted

his request. He did not want to appear a 'piker'—he had had his 'fling,' but this war business was causing him to think and think hard, and the more he thought the more he realized that he was not merely doing himself harm but he was hurting the boys who were always around him. He wanted to make a change and he wanted to do it now, and it was my privilege to guide him to the light. We had great talks in these after days when we went into the trenches. I visited him twice in the night time—he was in the 'bombers' section and the last time I was there he was anxious about me being there—he told me it was dangerous—it was only twenty-nine yards from the Germans—and asked me to get out. After a little I left him, and in less than an hour a message came to me that I was wanted quick. I was at his side in a moment—how pleased he was at my quick response! He was over six feet high and weighed two hundred pounds almost, nevertheless I carried him out and had a quiet time with him waiting for the doctor. The poor fellow was suffering terrible but he was brave, and died thanking God for the Y.M.C.A. Almost his last words were for me to continue my work as he said it was beginning to get there with the boys. And so passed ———, gentleman, private in H. I. M. Canadian Army, clean cut, good natured and kindly, a man who twelve months ago would not have entered a Y.M.C.A. building on a bet, but who, before he died, was one of its greatest advertisers.

"The last Sunday at Otterpool we had some fine meetings. The day started with church parade, after which we had communion and then in the afternoon we had the use of a band to lead the singing and we had a good open air sing-song. In the evening the tent was crowded. Major Beatty, senior brigade chaplain, was the speaker, and say, one could feel that the impressive way he was talking was having its effect on the men, so it was not surprising that many remained behind to talk over these things with us, and one asked to be baptized.

"But it was when we hit France that our work really commenced. In the trenches is the place where I at least have been most appreciated. How pleased the men are to have some one go around during the long, cold, dark night watches and talk to them. It is then that men open up their hearts to one; it is then that one can be of real service to a man; a cheery word, a laugh, a chat on the firing step of a parapet, and lo! a man's heart is opened to one and the way is made easy for presenting Jesus Christ. I have been in some big meetings, I have taken part in many of them, but I'd rather spend one night in a front firing line trench, relieving the strain of the men and talking in a quiet way of the 'way of salvation' than in all the big meetings it has been my lot to attend. Of course the strain on the 'Y' man is also great, but it is great work and I enjoy it very much."

Extracts from letter of Capt. Harry Whiteman, dated October 12th, 1915:

"I enclose a few snapshots of the surroundings in which I do my work. The one taken in the wood with the Canadian Y.M.C.A. sign on the tree is one of the centres I have had opened throughout the summer in P——— W——— immediately behind the firing line. Here weekly have been written thousands of letters to mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers in the Dominion. Here also the men have congregated throughout the warm days and evenings (when they have been free) of the summer months to read, talk and have social times and to listen to the gramophone. I believe this open-air 'Y.M.' has been more appreciated than anything we have done over here. It is still being carried on, although the mud and the rain is getting uncomfortable and must soon interrupt our work in that spot, without we can get shelter of some kind. I have been there ever since last June when we marched in from the south, and I can safely say that the spot is thoroughly well known to the Second Brigade, if not to the whole of the infantry of the division, for we seem to have visits from every battalion. I am writing you from England, at the conclusion of a short leave of absence, and I return to Belgium to-morrow.

"I have enjoyed my seven days' rest in England very much. It is the first time I have been away from the firing line really since I rejoined the battalion in June, so you can imagine how much I appreciate being away from the roar of the guns and the bursting of the enemy's shells. I might say that a few days before I left a piece of high explosive shell rent a huge hole in the little tent you see in the snap. Fortunately, I was not in at the time.

"After seeing and living with our boys daily in an atmosphere of peril, I can only reiterate what I have said before—it is wonderful and I would not miss this experience for a great deal. Whilst there is much in this work to make one sad, every day brings wonderful instances of self-sacrifice and Christlike acts on the part of these splendid fellows, more than enough to counter-balance that which is vile and dark.

"Remember us in your prayers to the Almighty Father that strength may be ours and that these splendid fellows out here may from this scene of carnage see life in its noblest and sweetest aspect in the days that are to come."

Extracts from letter of Capt. E. B. Archibald, dated September 26th, 1915:

"I had a dandy meeting after the church service this morning—had to take advanatge of the time as the boys have to leave about

3 p.m. for the trenches. The boys sang till they were hoarse. I spoke for about ten minutes, and then Rev. Dr. Pringle of Yukon fame spoke for ten minutes. I have had some fine concerts, also athletic entertainments, but my winning service is my religious one. I tell you it is fine to have twenty-five men stay after the service is over and give your hand such a shake that you can feel it all over, and with tears in their eyes thank you for the meeting. I don't know a man on earth that I would trade places with at the present time.

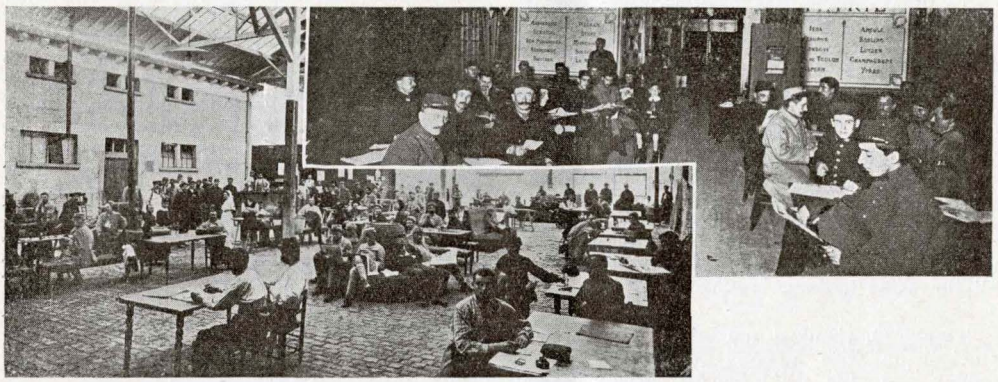
"From the General down, I have the hearty support of officers and men. I am going to give you a sample of what they think of the Y.M.C.A. One of our lieutenants was going on leave and came and asked if he could do anything for me while in London. I said I didn't think so unless he could influence some good hearted soul to donate a large flag for decoration purposes. To-day I got a letter from the Central News, Ltd., London, a quotation from which I give below, to show you the spirit which prevails among the officers, both junior and senior, towards the Y.M.C.A.

"'I had the pleasure to-day of a call from Lieut. ———, who tells us that he is anxious to get a very large Canadian flag for use as a concert background. We take pleasure in interesting ourselves in the matter, and have ordered the flag and guaranteed the amount. Lieut. ——— has kindly headed the subscription list, and we will make ourselves responsible for the cost of the flag, less any further subscriptions which he may conveniently be able to obtain while in London'."

Further selections from recent letters:

"Our men of the 19th Battalion have not lacked for any good thing since coming here. Religious meetings, concerts, personal talks, reading matter and correspondence material, athletic games of all kinds. I come in for congratulation from the fact that the 19th have won the Brigade Championship in tug-of-war, baseball, football and general athletics. Our request for a half-day for Divisional Athletics has been granted, and the date set for Saturday next, September 11th. I go through all our huts (37) regularly with Canadian papers and writing paper and envelopes, and have many helpful talks with the men, besides making announcements and keeping them up in athletic work."

"During the past month our chaplain has been absent. In his absence I have endeavored to carry on the work of regularly visiting the hospitals he had been covering, by his request, and by the request of our C.O. also. This has been very interesting work and at the same time satisfactory in that one sees the help rendered and fairly feels the way the chaps appreciate it.



The above illustration shows one of the points in France where Association work is being carried on for the French soldiers. Y.M.C.A. representatives are with practically all of the armies of the Allies.

"We have also had our regular sing-songs, concerts and meetings as usual with a good amount of success. One of the best pieces of work I have been able to do is to start a battalion Bible class. While we only had ten men to start, yet it has grown to eighteen and every man is hand picked, absolutely as fine a type of men as one could see, not all professing Christian men but clean, virile boys, whom I have come to know well and love like brothers. The class is not advertised or any fuss made about it. We meet in one of the men's huts and the whole battalion knows that any one will be made welcome.

"We had Gypsy Smith the other night and scores of men took their stand at the close. It was a remarkable meeting and yet the great thing is to get close to these men and keep their faith strong. Don't let the folks at home cease their supplications for the men

and for us, because the whole tendency for us all is to let the influence of the whole business pull our ideals down and lower the standard of Christian life and living.

"The past week has been a particularly busy one for me. Our C.O. called me in and said as we had not much more time here he would like a week of special events on our battalion area every evening. And we had one gala week. The men have responded splendidly, nearly the whole battalion turning our voluntarily. We have boxing, wrestling and fencing tournaments, open air concerts and each night seemed better than its predecessor."

". . . . I retired at 11 p.m. cold as an icicle and spent the night shivering, and was rudely awakened this morning by an orderly who had a message from Col. ———, requesting my presence at the trenches. One of our poor chaps had been shot in the head and was dead, ... of Hamilton, a very nice, quiet boy of 20 years. Another chap was shot through the lungs but we expect he will recover. The Colonel wished me to conduct the funeral service, and I did. We have no chaplain with our battalion now.

"It was a quiet little service, no shooting party or brass band, no flowers—ten of his comrades and two of his officers, the colonel and his headquarters staff all attended. Our comrade had no beautiful casket—just his army clothes in which he fell, and a waterproof sheet to cover him, not very stylish, but all the same to him, brave chap."

"Our C.O. thanked me when I came over stocked up with a good supply of French money, so the 'Y' representative cashed cheques, postal orders, drafts, etc., for all comers to the tune of over 3,000 francs. The fact of my being a watchmaker is known among the men, and they all bring their watches to me. Many are rectified at once, the others I send to London. Many a chap is surprised at getting his watch back next day, and never once has it cost a cent.

"Every time I go up to the trenches, I come back loaded with requests for things, orders to fill, etc., etc., and when I go back I feel like a veritable Santa Claus, and look something like a Christmas tree. The Y.M.C.A. officer has to be brother, father, lover *pro tem,* in fact everything from broker to barber."

"We have been here more than two months, and, with the exception of two five-day rests, the second brigade have been right at the front line and reserves the whole time. Even during our rest periods we only went back about five kilometres. You may wonder what opportunity is afforded us to work when the troops are so constantly at work. Well, the present position is rather an unique one. The portion of line held by us is backed by small wooded hills, in this wood the men in reserve are billeted while the others are in the trenches. The right and left half of the brigade do alternate duty in the trenches. I have purchased a small tent in which I sleep and keep my supplies. The engineers have made me a couple of large tables, and for the past two months I have been running an open air Y.M.C.A. within a thousand yards of the front line. Thus I am able to serve from my open air centre the half of the battalion that is out of the trenches, and being in such close proximity to the front line I can stroll over the hill and take reading matter and the gramophone to the men whilst they are in the firing line. Every week I give my gramophone a one or two days' trip to the front line within 150 yards of the enemy. . . . .

"We had a great time on both occasions when we were resting. During the daytime we had all kinds of sports and games, and every evening a slap-up concert with the assistance of our battalion band. I might say, too, that I have been fortunate on each of these rest periods in being able to hire a piano from the nearest town. I wish you people in Canada could have witnessed a scene that occurred at one of our closing concerts during one of our rest periods. From a rudely constructed platform I was leading the boys in singing choruses and old home songs; some seven or eight hundred men were there sitting round in a huge circle in the flickering light of several coal oil torches. The time had arrived for closing, and I said 'Well, boys, this has been pretty good, what do you say to closing it with the singing of that dear old hymn, "Nearer my God to Thee"?' A roar of 'sure' was the immediate response, and someone shouted 'everybody stand up,' and to a man they arose and sang. My, how they sang! I shall never forget it. I stopped singing and listened, and as I heard the great volume of song rising from that crowd of strong men, as I looked up to the starry heavens and then at those hundreds of weather-beaten faces showing dimly through the flickering light, I could not but feel that here was a really religious act, a sincere offering on the part of that crowd of men.

"I have started a small lending library in connection with my work. I am having 200 books per month sent out from the lending library in England. The effort is much appreciated and the books are in constant demand. The only expense incurred is the cost of packing and shipping, and the books are my absolute property."

". . . . On arriving at our first resting place after our train journey, I was able to serve our men with paper and envelopes. I also took over the Post Office work for the battalion for a few days until it got into running order, and because we were too near the firing line to engage in any activities which

caused a noise, even sing-songs were prohibited.

"Our next move, a long route march, with full equipment on our backs, took us in the neighborhood of Ed. Archibald's quarters. Here Ed. proved to be my very good friend, and his entire equipment was at my disposal. With his assistance I was able to supply my battalion's needs and those of the other battalion I had charge of.

"We moved again in two days, and this time right to where the doings are. I succeeded in getting a small tent and running a canteen while our men were at the rest camp. But now they are in the trenches I have a dug-out in a well known section, and have my supplies sent in with the rations. As a result, I have a Y.M.C.A. (perhaps the first) *underground*. I sleep there, eat there, and am writing this report close to the open door (very much open these cold nights). I converse with the men, bring them snatches of news, what cheer I can, and attend to any chores for them. I am always welcomed, and there are many encouraging features to the work.

"The Red Cross man is my neighbor, and I am able to assist him in minor things, and he is also of assistance to me.

"What is the most encouraging feature? Well, let me see—it is the real man beneath the veneer. A lot of profanity among the men is habit. Some of it is a bluff to hide the real feelings, but down in the dug-out, washing out of the same pail, eating the same rations cooked over a smoky fire, when one man bares his soul to another, I have found beneath the veneer, in almost every case, the *real gold*. There are those with mistaken ideas, those with wrong viewpoints, and others who vacillate, but when the real test comes, they ring true. I can speak to these men of the Ideal Man in a more natural way, and receive a more sympathetic hearing than I ever could from men at home."

EXTRACTS FROM THE BRITISH "Y.M." WEEKLY.

Capt. Whiteman of the 10th Canadian Battalion in France writes General Secretary Yapp as follows:

"Adverting to our conversation a few weeks ago *re* a winter hut for the Association work in the 2nd Brigade, Canadians.

"I have seen the Brigadier, and he is very keen upon having one of our huts erected on the site I have been using all the summer carrying on my work in the open air. I indicated the spot to you as well as I could. The engineers have already built a small rough hut to carry on the work for the time being, but what I need is a hut that we can make warm and comfortable for meetings and entertainments.

"Our Brigadier is most sympathetic towards our work, and will do everything in his power to further our efforts. He expressed the wish for our hut to be put up as soon as possible, so there is little doubt that we are now in permanent winter quarters.

"Our brigade rest billet now takes in the large marquee, recently erected by the National Council in the Canadian area, so that the battalion at the rest billet is well catered for. We are having splendid gatherings nightly at the marquee; all last week I had to have the walls taken down for three-quarters of the way round, in order to accommodate the crowd. If the donors of such buildings could only see a crowd of these men gathered together to listen to the entertainments and join in the song services, they would feel well repaid for their part. I tell you, Mr. Yapp, these places are 'havens of rest' in the fullest sense of the word to these chaps, after five days of dreary existence in holes in the ground. Last night we had a splendid service, one of our Canadian chaplains officiated, and after the service we had what I call a real 'Home Song Service.' I just ask the men to call for their favorite hymns, and my, how they sing! These song services are testimony meetings in themselves, for in the hymns called for one can see the desire to hark back to old associations—the mother, home and Sunday school."

A TOUCHING TRIBUTE.

Demonstrating the Spiritual Influence of the Y.M.C.A.

The following letter was sent by a soldier in the Dardanelles to a comrade in the homeland. Since it speaks so eloquently for itself, it needs neither introduction nor explanation. It may just be added, however, that the writer has since died on the battlefield:

"When you go over to the old Y.M. tent I want you to remember me to the staff there, and to tell the leader how glad I am that I ever had the opportunity of a quiet talk with him. You know, Jim, old pal, what my life had been up to that time. You know how I have wasted my life, and brought degradation on my poor wife and family. But that day changed my world. His words to me, so free from emotionalism, yet so full of Godly, commonsense talk, gave me a vision of Christ as my Saviour. My God! the joy of my little wife when I went home on week-end leave the following day and told her I had decided to follow Him for Whom I had never had any use before—it was great! Unless they have told you, or Nell sent you word, the wife's people had persuaded her to apply for a divorce from me, but there will be no divorce now, and if God spares me to return

to my darlings, neither wife nor youngsters shall ever have cause to feel ashamed of me again. I am glad to be able to write you like this. We are both fairly educated, and we both of us have room for repentance. But, best of all, we both made our decision for Christ under the same influence.

"Jim, if ever men felt after God, they are doing it here. There are about twenty-three of us left here who signed those Testament cards and marked A.C. in the corner, and we are sticking to our pledge. In the lonely hours of the night, when one is skinning his eyes for Turks, it is grand to feel one is not alone, and to be conscious of an Unseen Presence brooding over one. Last night poor old Dick died, and as he was dying he handed me his Testament, and a letter he had received from the jolly old Y.M. leader, and asked me to send them to his mother and tell her to keep them for his sake. It was all he had to send, but I was to say it was an all which had helped him on to the Life Eternal, where he would wait to welcome her. You remember the night he came over to go to bed after he had been with the leader in his tent, and how he knelt down to pray. Yes, and how he continued in prayer, although we hurled anything we could lay our hands on. We thought it rare fun night after night, didn't we? But we, too, were soon to be under the same influence ourselves, and pass through a like experience. And we are all the better for it. I'd give something to see the leader sitting with his Bible in amongst us to-night. Poor chap! He used to look worried and worn sometimes, but he always had a smile and a word in season. I may never be able to write him, but you'll show him my letter, won't you? It will cheer him up, and I always think of him in my prayers."

A man home from the front said recently to some relatives, "You have no conception of the temper that prevails in the trenches. Our battalion was ordered to advance in the last great attack. We had a few moments before we joined in the charge. Every man dropped on his knees. Not a man was without some prayer to put up. Not a man was ashamed to be seen, *and heard,* offering it. We weren't a battalion of saints. If the rips and rascals of a regiment can pray like that over there, what ought not you people at home to be doing?" Certainly, our campaign is among a prepared host. Soldiers, sailors, munition workers—all are ready for the call, and eager to be guided in the response they make.

A GOOD STORY.

A small boy, whose head reached about the height of the counter, called at the Cardiff Y.M.C.A. and handed an envelope containing 12s. 6d. to Mr. Higman "for the soldiers." "Where did you get this?" "Oh, we had a concert in our kitchens, me and my chum, and charged a penny for the kitchen chairs and tuppence for the drawing-room chairs!"

Y.M.C.A. TENT A BLESSING.

The following letter received by Rev. Wm. Henderson, of the Shantymen's Christian Association, while in charge of the Y.M.C.A. work at Sandwich, Eng., last summer, will be read with deep interest:

Garryowen, 26 Darwin Road,
Southampton, July 23rd, 1915.

The Y.M.C.A.,
Sandwich.

When my son came home from Canterbury last February on his last leave before going into action, he often spoke of the Sandwich Y.M.C.A. tent, of the "blessing your tent was and is to the boys away from home." He was pleased when I offered to send a small contribution to your funds.

May 5th he was one of the 6th K.L.R. killed with many other young lads near Ypres.

I thank you for kindness shown to and much appreciated by him.

I enclose £3, hoping it will be of some help to you. I am,

Yours gratefully,
(Sgd.) MARY E. RUDDLE.

MILITARY.

As indicative of how the camp commandants look upon the work carried on in the summer camps, we give the following:

November 22nd, 1915.

Chairman Military Service Department,
National Council Y.M.C.A. of Canada,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir:

It seems almost superfluous for me to say how very much the Y.M.C.A. tents were appreciated by all ranks at Camp H—— this summer. Many a dull evening was made pleasant and interesting to the men by the entertainments arranged by the Y.M.C.A. I cannot speak too highly of the energy and enthusiasm of your officials who were instrumental in making the Y.M.C.A. so popular this year.

Yours sincerely,
————, Colonel.

MILITARY CAMPS.

Halifax, N.S.—S. O. Watt and others.
Sussex, N.B.—J. Willis Jones.
St. John, N.B.—Robt. Smart.
Fredericton, N.B.—W. R. Seeley.
Woodstock, N.B.—O. W. Dycer.

A STRONG TRIBUTE.

Letter to Mr. Bishop from Rev. George Adam, Pastor of Romford Road Congregational Church, Forest Gate, London E., England.

December 2nd, 1915.

Dear Mr. Bishop:—

I am quite unknown to you, but I have seen a great deal of the Y.M.C.A. work amongst the Canadian Troops on this side, for which as General Secretary, you are so largely responsible. I write to congratulate you. Believe me, I so appreciate the need among your soldiers of social and religious work that I would have written as readily to criticize in the hope of improvement, as I now do to approve in the hope of extension. The officers you have sent over have been chosen for the most part with discernment and skill. Your first bunch who did the work for the men on Salisbury Plain were simply magnificent. There, the soldiers were almost entirely dependent on the Y.M.C.A. for the provision of any little extra comforts they had, and for entertainment—indeed your organization provided the sole opportunity for social life. These things every family which sent a soldier to the aid of the Motherland knows full well.

There was another side to the work, however—the religious. Of this the soldier men speak but little, and I believe write home even less. It may be, then, that Canada does not know its real debt to the Y.M.C.A. men who so splendidly have given themselves to the supplying of these dual needs of the Canadian Contingents. I spent many weeks amid the mud and had ample opportunity of hearing, observing and knowing of the work done. Great spiritual work was most certainly done, and many hundreds of men on their own confession found their way into the Kingdom of God.

Your men were splendid. Will. W. Lee, as organizer, worked like a team. Many a time when he ought to have been in bed, so ill was he, I have seen him in his car, axle deep in mud, ploughing his way through amid the lashing rain, to some hut where the boys were awaiting him. Forgie, too, was a gem, bright and buoyant, in the most depressing surroundings. Many a boy has bucked to, and been brave again by Forgie's bearing. Whiteman also wielded a fine power for good by sheer influence of character and example. Officers and men will yet return home to bear an ample testimony to these facts. Pequegnat was in a class by himself. Never has it been my lot to see a man of such contagious enthusiasm. Often have I seen a hutfull of men, wet through after a long march in the rain, cold also and almost dispirited, suddenly aflame with patriotism, then slowly softening into remembrances of home and loved ones, which in turn would melt into praise and prayer to God, under the spell of this man's leading in song. In all their doings, your Y.M.C.A. officers with the soldiers kept King and Country second only to Christ. The men loved to have it so, and the response all through has been wonderful. I have seen and talked to large numbers of the Canadian wounded in British hospitals, and it was sweet to hear that the religious foundation laid in so many lives by the Y.M.C.A. officers and meetings in the days of training, had stood the strain of battle, wounds and death. It is great to hear men give such testimony, and I am more than pleased, as one quite outside your Association and its connections altogether, to pass it on to you.

You have, it seems, lost one of the notable figures of your first lot of men, in Irwin. He was a fine, manly chap, good as gold and true as steel—as pal in palmy days and when shot and shell were screaming and bursting around the boys, there went Irwin with them. He had taught them how to live, and up in the battle line he went to teach them how to die.

At Shornecliff and Bramshott Camps, your good work is going on, but your Y.M.C.A. men are few, and I fear from observation, handicapped, while the boys need more and more of the real moral help which the Y.M.C.A. movement can and does give. One man is so small in a Brigade, when so much demands doing. Send along more men of the stamp of Fingland and Wallace, and see they stand in need of nothing that they may better face the mighty tasks that await.

It was a surprise and delight to find a man of Gerald Birks' distinction spending himself with eagerness in the great enterprise. His keenness makes keen all he comes in contact with. There can be no doubt that his appointment as Major and his presence on the spot has done much for the Y.M.C.A. work, and has stimulated and unified a set of officers, already for the most part spending and being spent in the work of Jesus Christ among the fine fighting men of Canada.

Much of the Y.M.C.A. achievement has been the result of the ever loyal co-operation of the British Association, and I have been charmed to see how smoothly the inter-Association arrangements have been carried out from the very first day. Your own Canadian chaplains, fine men all, but outstanding in any Company—Beattie, Pringle, and Frost in the First Contingent. Bruce-Taylor so recently gone to the battle zone,

and now your very own "Ralph Connor" so justly honored and promoted—these men know how your movement has made possible for them much of what they have been able to accomplish in the hearts of their men.

I have written but briefly of what I have seen and of what I know of the triumphant success of Y.M.C.A. efforts. In its highest interests of the soldier boys, your Government was wise to incorporate it in its army. See that it neither falters nor fails in anything in the future. See to it that Canada is told of the work done, quietly but with conquering power, among her brave boys, and when Canada knows, she who has been so Royal a daughter to her Motherland, will be no whit less Regal a Mother to her Sons.

Yours in His service.

(Signed) George Adam.

GOOD WORK AT OTTAWA.

"Dear Mr. Munger:—

"It is with a feeling of pleasure and satisfaction that I now advise you of the appointment of Mr. H. J. Swetman with the rank of Honorary Captain to the unit under my command, to supervise Y.M.C.A. work in this Battalion. I can assure you this appointment meets with the heartfelt approval of every officer, non-commissioned officer, and man of the 77th with whom Mr. Swetman has been associated in Y.M.C.A. work for the past four months, and where he has ably conducted schemes, not only for the comfort but for the entertainment of the men in camp and in barracks. We are proud of having him in uniform with us.

"I cannot conclude without expressing my keen appreciation of the splendid physical instruction that Mr. Swetman is now conducting for the Battalion under your kind approval and co-operation. Every officer is on the floor of your gymnasium each morning at 6.45 o'clock for 45 minutes' hard work, and, in addition, a hundred men are exercised each day between the hours of 9 and 12 o'clock. How you can afford to give us this accommodation free of charge is more than I can understand, and my only regret is that we are not in a position to give your Association adequate recompense for the immense benefits that we are deriving from the use of your gymnasiums and your baths. Once more expressing my deep gratitude, believe me,

"Yours very truly,

"(Sgd.) D. R. Street, Lieut.-Col. O.C.,
"77th Overseas Battalion C.E.F."

RECENT PROMOTIONS.

"Canadian Manhood" extends its congratulations to the Canadian officers recently deservedly promoted. Their new addresses are Major Generals W. E. Hodgins, Ottawa, and T. Benson, Halifax; Brigadier Generals, E. A. Cruikshank, Calgary; E. W. Wilson, Montreal, and W. A. Logie, Toronto, also Colonel S. C. Mewburn, Toronto.

INTERNMENT CAMP WORK

This important service will be extended at the new year by the appointment of H. M. Pearson to Petawawa, and J. P. Henderson to Spirit Lake.

FROM CAMEOS OF THE WAR.

By Annie Swan, in British Weekly.

Anyhow, the Remounts Camps are efficiently run and carefully guarded, and it is a privilege of no ordnary kind to have been allowed to see one.

The camp was run on precisely the same lines as other camps, and up there our good friends the Y.M.C.A. have a delightful hut for the rest and recreation of the men.

* * * * *

Just because of that, because "the daily round, the common task," admits of little variation or illumination in the lives of these dockers who pursue their old calling, wearing different clothes, and in different and to free men much less congenial surroundings, it is necessary for any speaker who presumes to set an ideal before them to walk with much care.

For the Y.M.C.A. it is, however, a congenial and fertile soil.

The greater the difficulties and the stiffer the problems, why, then, effort must be more strenuous and consecrated, intelligence more alert, the spur quickened and purified—that is all. "Just anything" won't do for these grim-faced men when they assemble together after their long and strenuous day. Only the best is good enough.

A Canadian homestead had ground the life and push out of a man, who, roughly dressed, applied for work at Fargo and found it. He had lost confidence, but a tryout soon found that he had stuff in him. He had been a physical director. A field where two men had failed opened; he took the job and panned out. There is good material in rough packages.—Association Men.

GENERAL NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATIONS

Soldiers Being Cared for—Money and Membership Campaigns Successful.

Toronto Central.—J. W. Hopkins, General Secretary.

The most interesting event that has occurred in our Association for some time was the recent Membership Campaign, when an effort was made by the city Associations to obtain 3,000 members in six days. The three Associations participated and the results far exceeded our expectations. The total score stood at 4,552 members. This amount was made up as follows: Central Branch, 2576; West End Association, 1,101; Broadview Branch, 875. It was a great effort! The enthusiasm of the workers grew steadily until the closing supper when it knew no bounds. A great responsibility has been placed upon the Association in bringing into the activities this great increase in membership, but the problem is being worked out and the membership, which now nearly reaches the capacity of our building, provides an excellent field for the development of a better work in every department than we have been able to accomplish heretofore. It was a campaign for men, not money; the question of money was not raised during the entire canvass; at the same time, the percentage of fees collected was large—rather beyond the average when similar efforts are taken into consideration.

On Sunday, November 21st, the Association turned over its building and equipment for the purpose of welcoming the first large contingent of wounded soldiers returned from the front. The men were expected to arrive in the city in the morning but the train not reaching the city until 3 p.m. necessitated a change in the programme, which involved the cancelling of all the Association activities announced for the day—the Bible Class and Men's Meeting being replaced by a welcome to the soldiers and their friends in the rotunda of the Association. The city served dinner to the soldiers in the auditorium at five o'clock, while light refreshments were served to their families in another part of the building. The entrances to the building were under military guard and only those who could show good reason why they should be admitted were allowed entrance. Hundreds of friends, however, were in waiting, and the family reunions which occurred were most pathetic. The men who were invalided home are now housed at the Convalescent Hospital, better known as the Bishop Strachan School, directly opposite the Central Building, and are within easy reach of the many facilities which the Association has placed at the disposal of the soldiers.

An interesting fact was discovered in one of our gymnasium classes recently, when out of 120 men in the class, it was found that 100 were already identified with some military organization and under training for service either at home or abroad.

The Association is still turning men back to the Militia Department who were at first refused for active overseas service owing to physical disqualifications. Scores of men have been sent back to the armories from the different Associations in the city, and others are now in training, looking forward to enlistment as soon as the necessary physical requirements can be obtained. This is only one of the methods of co-operation which the Association has worked out in connection with its service to the Military Department.

Cobalt.—S. R. Hall, Secretary.

On the 15th November a one-day campaign brought in 178 new members and renewals.

Saturday night over 150 men from the mines watched the three wrestling bouts and enjoyed the three solos and quartette in the gymnasium. We have turned Saturday night into miners' night. They will put on their own programme each week.

Thirty-two were entered in a billiard tournament, the finals of which were played Saturday night. The billiard room was filled with spectators.

The whole of the main floor has been painted, walls, ceilings and woodwork. A splendid large fireplace has just been completed in the parlor. It is a dandy—stone front inlaid with samples of the different minerals from the district. Hundreds have been in to examine it. Painting and fireplace cost the Association nothing.

Boys' department now numbers 87. Opening of reading room for the boys next Friday. The boys will put on a gymnasium exhibition for their parents.

Sunday Morning Bible Study Club every Sunday morning at 9.50. A dozen young fellows from 18 to 25 study "The Manhood of the Master."

McGill University.—E. A. Corbett, Secretary.

When No. 3 General Hospital (McGill) was organized about thirty medical students, members of McGill Y.M.C.A., met in Strathcona Hall at my suggestion and organized what we called "McGill Y.M.C.A. Field Branch." That organization is now established in France with their own building, which we have just erected at a cost of about $800. As equipment they

have a library of 400 volumes, 43 weekly and monthly magazines and papers, a camp organ, abundance of reading and writing paper, of which they distributed about 100,000 per month. They have Bibles, hymn books, supplies of socks and shirts, have regular meetings, and Bible classes.

Up to the present I have raised enough money from our graduates who are living in the United States to keep them going.

Every bit of accommodation is used by convalescent soldiers or wounded men who are able to walk around. Upon leaving the hospital every man is presented with a New Testament, some chocolates and a couple of pairs of socks. So far the Association has met the demand but were beginning to find difficulty in getting Bibles enough.

Brockville.—W. H. Wood, Community Secretary.

A printed report of the summer's work gives highly interesting particulars of the various activities successfully engaged in.

An athletic meet on May 24th was participated in by over one hundred boys and men.

Over four hundred boys and girls worked and cared for garden plots. Eighty of these plots were located at the new West Ward School grounds. The children were encouraged to send flowers and vegetables to the sick and poor. A fine lot of products was shown in a special department at the Fall Fair.

Under the Board of Education the first Summer School of Manual Training was a gratifying success; 1,575 boys attended during the eight weeks' course and many were taught to make useful articles.

Two supervised playgrounds were conducted under the Community Secretary.

The annual Boys' Camp was attended by 150 boys under 57 leaders.

Welland.—George W. Fisher, Secretary.

A combined financial and membership campaign was conducted October 19th and 20th. The objective was $5,000 to pay off the mortgage and current overdraft and provide funds for the year's work, and to secure 250 members. The campaign resulted in securing $4,742, which was later increased to $5,300, and 273 members. W. R. Cook, General Secretary, of Galt, assisted in organizing the campaign.

Owing to the limited facilities of the present building and the increased attendance of young men and soldiers, it has been found wise to limit membership to those 16 years of age and over. Two-thirds of the present membership are industrial workers. Thirty-eight of the 273 are juniors.

Organized classes in the various Sunday schools on the Standard Efficiency Tests basis are being promoted with success.

A new feature this year which is proving most popular is an evening business men's class on Wednesday evenings from 8.30 to 10. This has been held three weeks now, attendance never below twenty and increasing.

Bible study classes are being organized, three junior and three senior, including a teacher training class.

The Welland Association has found a large opportunity for service among soldiers mobilizing here. Over 1,900 have so far enlisted here, and all have been given free use of the Association privileges. The work going on at present includes basketball and indoor baseball leagues, checker tournament, bathing privileges, Khaki P. S. A. Club meeting Sun day afternoons, and Social Sing Sunday nights. Church and patriotic societies cooperate in providing a weekly entertainment for these men. Quite a number have joined the Pocket Testament League and been furnished with portions of the Bible. Many have signed the temperance pledge. And about 4,000 sheets of writing paper have been used by soldiers.

Chapleau R. R.—A. L. Smith, Secretary.

With the increase of railroad business a large number of our old members are finding their way back to the Chapleau Association and we are looking forward to the winter's programme with much anticipation for a successful time. The "Opportunity for Service" never seemed greater than it does to-day. Among the seventy men who have responded to the call of their "King and Country" from Chapleau two were members of the Association staff. One was from South Africa and fought against the British in the Boer war, he is now a sergeant in the Canadian Mounted Rifles and by this time possibly "Doing his Bit" for the King in the trenches.

Oshawa.—D. R. Poole, Secretary.

Half of the 84th battalion arrived here on November 10th and were given a royal welcome by the citizens. I do not hesitate to say that I believe that it would be hard work to find a finer lot of men anywhere and the officers in charge of them are largely a very fine type of manhood. A committee was organized before they arrived to look after their welfare and immediately became active as opportunity presented itself.

The soldier's uniform is his pass here, we are doing our utmost to contribute as far as possible to the boys who are making the supreme sacrifice for us. We are impressing upon our membership that our first duty this season is to care for our soldiers and our appeal is meeting with a mighty response. Our building is crowded with soldiers whenever they are off duty and from fifty to one hundred letters are written in our rotunda every evening. We give one hundred men a free swim every morning. Our accommodation is limited so we are arranging for an-

other club room and the Red Cross Society has volunteered to pay the rent, heat, and furnish it, while we have made arrangements to allow our capable boys' secretary to supervise it. We thought we had more work than we could do in our own Association but it is wonderful what sacrifice can be made in such a time as this. We have a committee on entertainment and another on religious work who are looking after soldiers in these departments.

Following the conference held in the Central Y.M.C.A., Toronto, a few weeks ago, when Secretary Scammell of the Lougheed commission outlined the work for the returned soldiers, we have organized a committee to look after our returned soldiers, representing the City Council, Board of Trade, Patriotic Association and the Y.M.C.A. We have made arrangements so that some one is definitely responsible to meet every soldier in automobile and the committee is responsible for giving him the care he needs, and when health is sufficiently restored to secure a position for him. We are seeking to do this in a systematic way and for that reason we have prepared the attached card which we keep on file and are getting the information we want respecting every soldier who enlisted in our city and as he returns we fill out the rest of the blanks accordingly and in this way we will have a definite record of every man. We are constantly receiving dividends for our investment. Very recently a resident of our city came in to the Association and asked for an interview. He frankly told me that he had never taken any interest in the Y.M.C.A. and was not considered a church man as he had his own religious views, but he said, I had a boy at the front and for the past months every letter he has written has been written on Y.M.C.A. stationery and he never tired telling us how kind the Y.M.C.A. secretaries were to them, then as he choked up, he said, I received his last letter this morning which came after the announcement that he had been killed in action, it was also written on Y.M.C.A. paper, he said, this has changed my views entirely, I shall keep this letter as long as I live and henceforth the Y.M.C.A. shall find a large place in my heart.

Sherbrooke, Que.—C. E. A. Heywood, Secretary.

The Sherbrooke Y.M.C.A. has included a 35th Battery C.F.A. team in basketball league; arranged for bowling and several individual basketball games, also planning for big "Athletic Night" for the A Section, 2nd Field Ambulance vs. the 35th Battery C.F.A. for December. Three nights per week from 6 to 7 are given in the gymnasium to each above mentioned company. Special note paper has been printed and is now being distributed to the soldiers through the co-operation of their officers. The Association is a bee hive every evening with soldiers, as every enlisted man in uniform is given the free use of the building.

In October we completed a membership campaign which brought in 156 members, making our total membership to date 565, of which 466 are men and 99 boys.

Ottawa—Boys' Division.—Charles Plewman, Secretary.

Sixty-five newspaper carriers are enjoying the privileges of the Association once a week. Four circulation managers assist in supervising their activities.

Forty students attending High School Club on Friday nights. Nine Triangle Clubs meeting weekly with an aggregate attendance of 90. Weekly Fireside Socials on Saturday night with an average attendance of 50. The percentage of older boys in the membership is steadily increasing.

Physical Department.

The Business Men's Gymnasium Class will visit the business men of Montreal Central December 4th. Between 40 and 50 expect to go.

Basketball is more popular than ever. Every gymnasium class has its league and there are now thirty-five teams enjoying this most popular of all indoor games.

Every gymnasium class is now organized. More interest is aroused through voluntary service and physical director is greatly assisted.

Eight different leaders are leading eight different gymnasium classes weekly and six junior leaders are assisting in other gymnasium classes. Never was there a better spirit displayed.

The first monthly social for members of the evening gymnasium class was held on Hallowe'en night. A great many said it was the best social yet. Over eighty were present.

Saturday next week the gymnasium will be bristling over with khaki boys. The officers of the 77th battalion will come every morning at 7 to attend a gymnasium class. From 9 to 12 two platoons will visit the gymnasium and the baths. The N.C.O.'s will do the instructing on the floor, who in turn will be instructed by the physical director twice a week so that they will be able to efficiently handle the men in the right kind of exercise.

In order to stimulate more interest in bowling, leagues have been organized in three gymnasium classes.

Collingwood.—R. C. Sidenius, Secretary.

Collingwood's school children's play festival was the outcome of two smaller demonstrations held within the two past years. The athletic play festival was worked out both on Dr. Brown's group plans as well as individual competition, and was arranged on the plan that each child was a unit, each room was a unit and each school. *First,* every child enter-

ing the four morning events and scoring one hundred points received the badge of honor; *second,* the boy or girl in *each* room scoring the highest number of points *each* received a silver medal, and *third,* the room in each school making the highest average number of points according to its enrolment received a pennant (this made for room loyalty as any child being absent brought down the average percentage.) *Fourth,* the school making the highest number of points according to its enrolment received the school pennant (the four schools competing and this made for school loyalty). The morning programme for boys being standing broad jump, running broad jump, baseball throw, and fifty and seventy-five yard dash. The girls' events were basketball throw, potato race, basketball

Collingwood Cala Day.

target throw and fifty-yard dash. The standard efficiency tests were used with some modifications. The afternoon events were a mass drill, singing of patriotic airs, followed by relay standing broad jump, boys' pony race, girls' nail driving contest, flag shuttle race, baseball and basketball catch. Each room furnished ten boys and ten girls for these afternoon group games. Over fifty judges were used.

Plans are on foot to make this an annual event.

Maritime Division.—A. S. McAlister, General Secretary.

Stanley Brent is in right at New Glasgow, beginning his engagement there September 15th. A recent financial campaign resulted in having a year's budget underwritten. Never before in the history of this town has there been as many young men employed in the industries. The opportunities for unselfish service are unparalleled.

James Bain, who completed a four-year secretarial course at Springfield College last year, has succeeded in rallying the forces of the churches of Truro to conserve the best that is in boys and young men, and to train them for Christian leadership and service. A successful financial effort to provide for the year's work was recently carried through.

H. C. Cross is the recognized leader in work for teen age boys and young men not only in Charlottetown but in Prince Edward Island as well. Mr. Cross has found his place and is filling it efficiently. In addition to a heavy regular programme, he makes time to look after the soldiers of the island in training at Charlottetown.

Messrs. Hutchinson, Bonk and Legge are a trio who occupy a big place in Christian leadership in St. John. They were all on the programme of the recent Older Boys' Work Conference held in that city.

The largest young men's class in the history of the organization was on the gymnasium floor the other night. The St. John staff are also rendering a great service to the soldier boys quartered there from time to time.

G. A. McWilliam recently passed the quarter century mark in his service to the Associa-

tion and the people of Moncton. Mac. is one who never grows weary in helping and is right on for another quarter.

J. C. Earthing is displaying stronger leadership than ever in developing health since his visit to Couchiching.

Moncton's loss proved gain to Halifax in the removal of their Boys' Work Chairman who was no figurehead but a real live wire in the person of G. Harry Gorbell. Harry as Boys' Work Secretary at Halifax has things going in earnest. The High School Club recently organized has already fifty members. The National Boys' week idea was pushed with success.

A. B. Dawson arrived in Halifax a little over a month ago from Calgary to take over the duties of Physical Director. He admitted that he hardly knew why he had come east, but he has since found out that he has plenty of work with the Halifax Association to tax his capacity. Things are coming his way.

In addition to largely increased Boys' Department membership hundreds of soldiers and sailors visit the building daily constituting a great opportunity.

Veteran P. F. Moriarty finds his hands greatly strengthened by the addition of these two men to his staff, and is happy, and working as hard as ever.

Seven additional men are being added to the Maritime staff (four have already been engaged) to lead the work among the 10,000 troops in seven places in the Provinces this fall and winter. S. O. Watt, who was with us last winter and at Valcartier all summer, is associated with the Maritime Secretary in caring for the work in Nova Scotia. T. H. Hutchinson, of St. John, will bear a somewhat similar relation in New Brunswick.

Western Division.—Harry Ballantyne, General Secretary.

A very encouraging and successful campaign to raise enough money to cover current account indebtedness and interest charges was held in Winnipeg in October. Mr. M. C. Williams was the campaign leader and, with a working force of 200 men divided into 20 teams of 10 men each and working in two divisions under the direction of D. J. Dyson and J. H. Detchon, $28,000 was subscribed, $3,000 over the amount asked for. Mr. J. H. Ashdown was the chairman of the campaign committee.

The result was another demonstration of the place that the Association holds in the minds of the business men of the community. The splendid work on behalf of the soldiers at Winnipeg last winter and at Sewell all summer helped greatly in the appeal that was made to the public.

Mr. T. D. Patton, who recently resigned the General Secretaryship of the Winnipeg Association, has been asked by the Western Division of the National Council to undertake the supervision of the military work in the city of Winnipeg this winter. Mr. Patton commenced this work on the 15th of November and is arranging a strong programme at the various points in the city where soldiers are quartered.

Mr. H. R. Hadcock, for many years Physical Director of the Association at Winnipeg, is now Acting General Secretary.

Robert Pearson, for the past two years and a half General Secretary of the Calgary Association, resigned on the 1st of November to accept a commission as lieutenant with the 89th Battalion. He is now taking the training course for officers in that city.

Mr. J. M. Sharpe, Boys' Secretary of the Association, is Acting General Secretary.

Arthur Black, one of the Leaders' Corps at Moose Jaw and who has been conducting physical classes in one of the churches there, has been invited to become the Physical Director of the Brandon Association and commenced his duties on the 29th of November.

Owing to the extensive programme of military Y.M.C.A. work in Western Canada for this winter, the Western Division of the National Council have appointed two assistants to help in this branch of the work. Mr. A. B. Ransom, who was one of the staff at the Niagara camp during the summer, is working in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and Mr. E. G. Duncan, for four years Assistant Secretary of the Edmonton Association, is working in Alberta and British Columbia. Mr. Ransom and Mr. Duncan are spending all of their time visiting the various points in the Western Provinces where there are no Associations, telling the story of the Association's work and asking financial aid.

The large decrease in our membership constituencies in all of the cities in Western Canada and the consequent shrinkage in income from both membership fees and dormitory income makes it imperative for practically every Association to undertake a campaign for current expenses this fall or winter, and it is hoped that the general improvement in business conditions caused by the magnificent harvest will mean a generous response on the part of the people who are canvassing. In addition to the Winnipeg campaign referred to above Saskatoon, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton, and very likely three or four other cities, are now organizing or will organize such efforts.

The annual Tri-City Membership Campaign for the Patterson shield, donated by ex-Lieut.-Governor Patterson of British Columbia and competed for by the Associations of Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster, was held in the first week of November. This is the third contest of its kind, that of 1913 being won by Victoria, 1914 by New Westminster, and the contest of this year by Victoria. According to the terms of the gift the Association winning it twice is entitled to possession

and the Victoria Association is, therefore, now awarded the shield.

The contest was a splendid one and ended with Victoria securing 11,218 points, New Westminster 10,250 points, Vancouver 8,738 points. Up to the day before closing, New Westminster, the smallest city of the group, had been leading with Vancouver second, but Victoria by a remarkable effort on the last two days overcame the handicap and finished first.

Thirteen military branches of the Association have been opened in Western Canada this fall and it is likely that four or five others will be undertaken some time during the winter. The list is as follows:

Winnipeg—T. D. Patton, Supervising Secretary. 78th Battalion—J. D. Whillans, Secretary. 53rd Battalion, 79th Battalion, Camerons—M. R. Sayer, Secretary. 45th Battalion—H. Dennison, Secretary. 61st Battalion—Capt. Farquhar, Chaplain, Secretary. 90th Battalion—

Portage La Prairie—10th C.M.R.

Brandon—79th Battalion—David Marshall, Secretary.

Regina—68th Battalion—J. J. M. McLeod, Secretary.

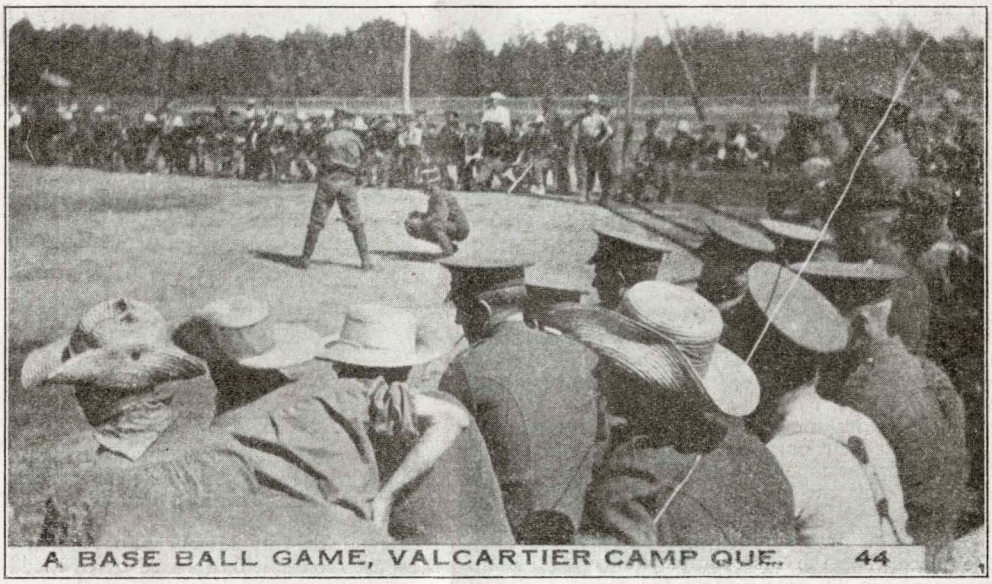
Saskatoon—65th Battalion—H. S. Dimock, Secretary.

Edmonton—51st Battalion, 63rd Battalion, 66th Battalion—J. P. Gerrie, Secretary.

Calgary—56th Battalion, 82nd Battalion, 89th Battalion—D. A. McKillop, Secretary; Thos. McFarlane, Assistant Secretary.

Vancouver—62nd Battalion, 72nd Battalion—E. S. Whittaker, Secretary.

Victoria—67th Battalion—Stanley Young, Secretary.



A BASE BALL GAME, VALCARTIER CAMP QUE. 44

BOYS' WORK DEPARTMENT

THE NATIONAL BOYS' WORK COMMITTEE.

Back Row—David H. Gibson, Toronto; W. J. Lamb, Toronto, High School Clubs; J. W. Beaton, Toronto, Employed Boys' Work; Capt. A. W. Forgie, Territorial Boys' Work Secretary; F. L. Farewell, Whitby, Daily Bible Reading; Taylor Statten, National Boys' Work Secretary; E. G. Baker, Toronto, Bible Study.

Front Row—W. H. Vaughan, Toronto, Finance; Frank Yeigh, Toronto, Boys' Conferences; R. G. Dingman, Toronto, Chairman; A. L. Paterson, Montreal; A. W. Briggs, Port Credit, Community Work.

The Boys' Work Committee of the National Council is composed of a live group of men, every one of whom takes a real responsibility for the development of the special phase of work which he represents.

This is not one of the committees of which we have heard "which never meet on earth but hope to meet in heaven." It not only holds frequent meetings, but every member is constantly thinking of and planning ways and means whereby the Council may render larger service to the Association and to the whole boys' work movement.

All boys' workers, whether in Association, Sunday school or other organizations, are invited to correspond with any member of the Committee if advice is wanted about literature, plans or methods of work, or if help is wanted to carry out any special programme. The members of the Committee pledge themselves, individually and as a whole, to bring all the resources of the National Council to the help of any who seek guidance and help.

EMPLOYED BOYS' WORK.

J. W. Beaton, Chairman.

Boys' Work men who are in close touch with the Provincial and District Conferences which are making such a deep impress upon our National Life, feel a tinge of regret that the proportion of buisness boys who attend is so small.

It is recognized that it is much easier for High School fellows to get the time to attend these conferences, but knowing the need of the employed boy and the inspiring effect of our conferences, it seems as if leaders of the boys' groups should be stirred to greater efforts along these lines.

The National Boys' Work Committee of the National Council will aggressively get behind any movement which has to do with District Conferences for Employed Boys. It is strongly urged that these be held on a Saturday afternoon and evening, and that the work attempted be of the most practical character.

A. E. Roberts.

Albert E. Roberts, New York, Senior Secretary of the County Work Department, International Committee Young Men's Christian Association.

Mr. Roberts, who gave a number of most helpful addresses at the London and Peterboro Boys' Work Conferences held recently, is not by any means a stranger to the older boys and boys' workers in Ontario. He took part in the conferences held at Orillia in 1911 and at Brockville in 1913 and all who had the privilege of hearing him will hope that he has now formed the habit of visiting us every two years, so that we may look for him again in 1917.

The straightforward appeal made by Mr. Roberts at the mass meetings for older boys at London and Peterboro led 121 splendid fellows to go forward and register their decision to take Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour of their lives. Each fellow shook the hand of Mr. Roberts saying that he meant business and would try hard to do what Jesus would have him do.

Mr. Roberts by his good fellowship, genuine sincerity and kindly consideration has won for himself a large place in the hearts of older boys and boys' work leaders in Ontario who wish him every success in his great task of endeavoring to make it easier for the boys and men of rural communities to live happy, wholesome lives devoted to the service of the Master and their fellowmen.

THE BOYS' WORK SECRETARIES' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA.

J. P. Hagerman, President.

As a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Boys' Work Secretaries of North America it became my good fortune to represent the Boys' Work Secretaries of Canada at a meeting of the Executive held in New York on November 10th last. Among the items of business two things were discussed which should be of vital interest to every Boys' Work Secretary in Canada.

The first in line of importance was the report of the Hour Glass Club. For the benefit of those who do not know, the Hour Glass Club is an organization of Boys' Work Secretaries who agree to devote an average of one hour a day to study and purposeful reading. The Club pin worn constantly by our Chief, Taylor Statten, is a constant reminder. It may be purchased at a nominal price from Mr. W. H. Burger, Chairman of the Hour Glass Committee, 215 West 23rd Street, New York City. Upon application for membership the prospectus giving the list of books will be forwarded and suggestions given for the use of the same.

Let us resolve now one and all to become members for life for the sake of our profession.

In the second place you will be interested to know that at the Executive meeting the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests came in for favorable comment, and the President declared his belief in the tests and in effect sent back through me a challenge to Canadian Boys' men to make large use of them this year in order to impress the whole Brotherhood in North America with the possibility of the Standard Efficiency Tests becoming soon the accepted programme for Boys' Work on this continent.

Only a fair response was given to our request sent out early in November for news items that might be of interest if given space in Canadian Manhood. May we now ask for your co-operation in this regard concerning any special features of your winter programme and have the items reach us not later than January 15th.

We would strongly advise the Boys' Work Secretaries who are using the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests to arrange where possible in co-operation with the Physical Departments to give an opportunity to the members of the groups to take their tests for their bars in running, jumping and throwing, as far as this can be done indoors during the Christmas vacation period.

We feel called upon to urge all Boys' Secretaries who have not a local sanitarium to support, to organize their memberships for a

campaign on behalf of the National Sanitarium Association, and in the sale of Christmas seals bring joy and happiness through the opportunity this money will furnish our unfortunate fellow-Canadians who are fighting this dread disease—tuberculosis.

NATIONAL BOYS' WEEK.

W. H. Vaughan, Chairman.

As we go to press, the cheques are pouring in from every part of the Dominion as a result of the National Boys' Week Campaign. This is a united effort on the part of the boys and workers with boys in almost every Association in Canada to help raise the yearly budget for the National Boys' Work Department in one week. The response has been most encouraging to the Committee. The following telegrams and letters received during the week, announcing the progress of the campaign, suggest the spirit that was manifested in this "Help the Other Fellow" effort.

November 25th, 1915.

Westmount, Montreal.

National Boys' Week going fine. Hundred fifty dollars raised to date. Best wishes.

E. H. HOBSON,
Boys' Work Secretary.

November 25th, 1915.

Halifax, N.S.

Forty dollars in already. Prospect good for sixty. Best wishes.

G. H. GORBELL,
Boys' Work Secretary.

November 25th, 1915.

Vancouver, B.C.

Every little helps. Twenty-seven dollars at ten p.m. but twenty boys still to report. Boys have worked well. Hope you will exceed the desired amount.

GEO. ROSS,
Boys' Work Secretary.

November 26th, 1915.

Winnipeg, Man.

Count on us for one hundred. Forty now collected.

W. H. MOOR,
Boys' Work Secretary.

November 25th, 1915.

Owen Sound, Ont.

Have sold twenty dollars' worth of stock now. Working on additional ten dollars.

H. P. ELLIS,
Boys' Work Secretary.

November 25th, 1915.

Moncton, N.B.

Moncton boys trying for twenty dollars. More if possible.

G. A. MCWILLIAMS,
General Secretary.

November 25th, 1915.

Guelph, Ont.

Sixty boys out with stock. One hundred and thirty fellows at banquet to-morrow so will push to finish.

FRANK S. BECKWITH,
Boys' Work Secretary.

November 25th, 1915.

Toronto.

Count on Toronto Central boys for at least one hundred and fifty dollars. The fellows are all anxious to help.

J. P. HAGERMAN,
Boys' Work Secretary.

November 27th, 1915.

Toronto, Ont.

Did not expect the boys would take it up so enthusiastically. Have forty cash and boys still working.

H. W. KINGERLEY,
Boys' Work Secretary.

Whatever the final financial results are, and we believe they will be good, we feel that perhaps the most important and helpful feature of National Boys' Week has been the ready and sympathetic co-operation of Secretaries and volunteer workers in this united effort to stand back of the National Boys' Work Committee, helping to inspire the boys of our land to have a share in extending the work of the Young Men's Christian Association throughout the Dominion.

This telegram was received the last moment before this issue went to press.

December 2nd, 1915.

Westmount, Montreal.

Net proceeds of National Boys' Week are three hundred and twenty-seven dollars. Will send cheque to-morrow.

E. H. HOBSON,
Boys' Work Secretary.

A letter from Halifax in the last mail reveals the spirit of the campaign.

"I am enclosing a cheque for $75.00. National Boys' Week was a great success in two ways: In the amount of interest and work it made for the fellows, and in the real spirit of 'Help the Other Fellow" that it created. The Campaign has educated our boys to appreciate the important work of the National Council."

HIGH SCHOOL CLUBS.

W. J. Lamb, Chairman.

The High School Club movement has made real strides this fall.

Mr. R. E. Crompton, of Victoria, writes: "Our High School Work is away better this year. They are studying Johnson's 'Problems of Boyhood.' We are using big men for Vocational Talks."

Harry Gorbell, of Halifax, writes: "The High School Club Work has been fine so far. We now have forty-five members. Our programme is outlined for the entire season and is being well carried out. Had another big social on Friday night; best girls invited, about eighty attended."

Our National Boys' Work Secretary, Taylor Statten, kept me informed as to the progress of the High School Clubs throughout the Canadian West while he was on his recent Western trip. He spoke most enthusiastically of the Calgary Club. This Club is divided into several smaller groups. We are publishing a picture of the group of older fellows. They took up a course in Teacher Training under the Boys' Work Secretary, J. M. Sharpe, last year and as a result sixteen of them are teaching Boys' Bible Classes this season. This Club entered most enthusiastically into the Mills Trophy competition and were the means of bringing the silverware back to Calgary the second time.

Edmonton has two High School Clubs this year. Prof. Sheldon, of the University of Alberta, is leading the South Side Club.

Although Saskatoon has lost its Boys' Work Secretary, the High School Club refuses to die. The all-round champion athlete of the school is President.

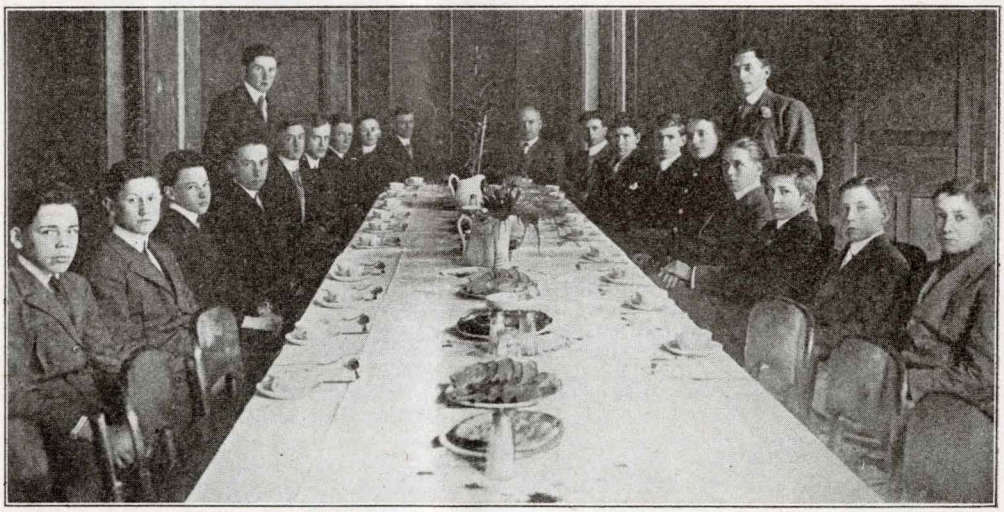
The principal of the Brandon Collegiate Institute paid a high tribute to the work of the High School Club in his school. They are now commencing the third season.

The Kelvin High School Club in Winnipeg is one of the strongest organizations of boys in that city. The members of the Executive are all leaders in the various walks of school life.

Percy Legge, of St. John, N.B., reports the organization of a High School Club in his city.

As a result of the noon-hour luncheons where we discussed High School Club work at the London and Peterboro Conferences, I have been flooded with invitations to organize new clubs. I am spending the coming week-end at Belleville and Kingston in this work.

The High School Clubs are co-operating with the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests in promoting the Three C's Campaign. Cards



THE TRIANGLE CLUB OF HAMILTON Y.M.C.A. IS A LIVE ORGANIZATION.
General Secretary Ward is the Teacher. It is composed of Boys attending the Collegiate Institute from outside points.

for conducting this important section of our work may be secured from our office, 15 Toronto Street. They read:

CLEAN SPEECH, CLEAN LIVING,
CLEAN ATHLETICS.

(No Smoke, No Smut, No Swearing)

"I hereby purpose to throw my weight whether it be an ounce or a ton in favor of Clean Speech, Clean Living and Clean Athletics."

Signature.....

Date.....

BOYS' WORK CONFERENCES.

Frank Yeigh, Chairman.

The two Older Boys' Conferences arranged by the Ontario Advisory Committee on Co-operation in Boys' Work were held in London and Peterborough in November, and were, in many respects, among the best held during the past ten years. A thousand choice lads were gathered in the two cities from over a hundred Ontario centres, and as one was privileged to look into their faces, one could see the hope of the country; one could regard them, as Mr. N. W. Rowell expressed it, as the "makers of Canada" in prospect.

The co-operative feature of the conferences is again worthy of comment. The Committee includes representatives of all the denominations, the Provincial Sunday School Association and the Young Men's Christian Association, and the harmony and oneness of aim of each member makes connection with such a Committee a delight and an inspiration.

The Canadian Standard Efficiency Test gave the keynote to the various general and group conferences, when the programme for both Sunday and mid-week meetings of organized classes were thoroughly discussed. Many boys' groups and classes decided to take up the Standard Efficiency programme, while many other Sunday School classes saw the value of organization in order to do their best work.

The banquets at each Conference were intensely patriotic in their nature, and this was aided by the splendid addresses of Mr. Rowell and Mr. George A. Warburton. Mr. Albert E. Roberts rendered a specially effective service in his series of addresses. One will not soon forget the Sunday afternoon meetings, when hundreds of the delegates decided for the Christian life or took a forward step.

Excellent work was done by the leaders in boys' work in directing the group conferences. The interest taken by the delegates in these groups, and the close attention they gave to the subjects under discussion, gave a note of quality to the gatherings.

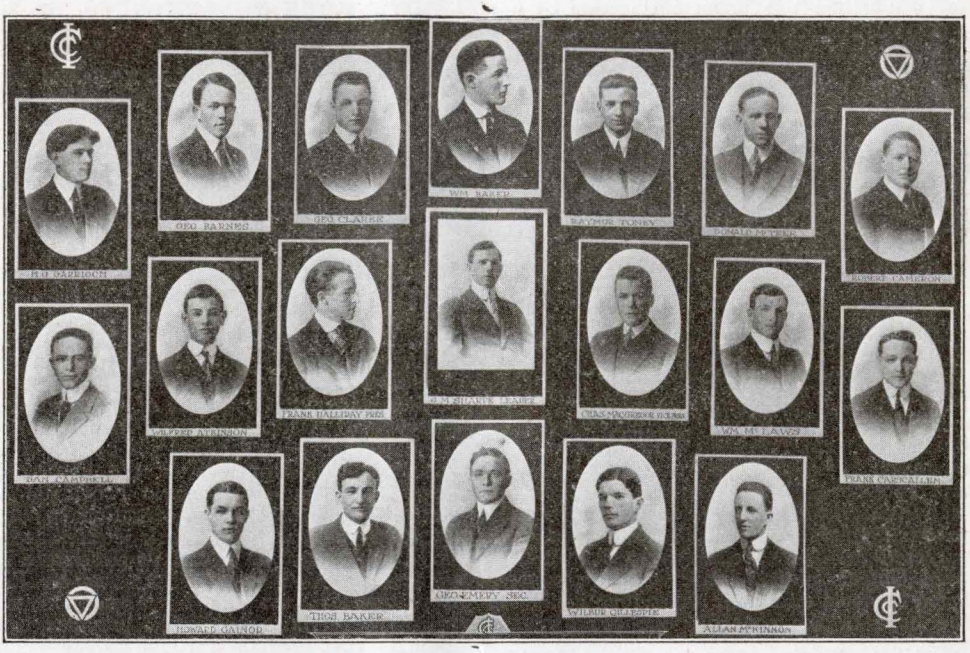
Interesting athletic events were run off in both cities, which exemplified this Department of Standard Efficiency Test.

BOYS' WORK CONFERENCES, No. 2.

The closing meetings of the sessions were, as usual, delightful and impressive to a degree. The largest churches in the two cities were crowded, and the sight of the great throngs of youths, making a human circle in the church, as they joined hands, and then the raising of their voices in "Blest be the Tie that Binds," made a scene not soon to be forgotten.

Judged from every standpoint, the Ontario Boys' Conferences of 1915 will rank among the best yet held, and the result should reveal itself in the extension of the Organized Boys' Movement and the adoption of the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests.

Held under the approval of the Brockville Ministerial Association, the Association of Sunday School Superintendents of Brockville, the Board of Directors of the Community Boys' Work and the Ontario Provincial Advisory Committee for Co-operation in Boys' Work a unique Boys' Work Conference of three days' duration closed in Brockville November 28th. This gathering was an Echo Conference of the one for Eastern Ontario held in Peterboro one week previous being used as one medium through which results of the larger convention might be conserved to the immediate district surrounding Brockville. The speakers were representatives of the Sunday School Boards and Commissions of the various churches. Friday evening, November 26th, four denominational "Father and Son" banquets were held simultaneously by the Church of England, the Presbyterian Church, the Metohdist Church and the Baptist Church. Saturday night four denominational "Boston" suppers were held in another church of the four Protestant churches in this community. The Conference sessions were given over largely to the study of the programme of the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests. The recreation period took the form of an indoor athletic meet held in the Armories (giving a practical demonstration of the wider use of this public building even in times of war) with the physical side of the Efficiency Tests as the standard. Through the series of conferences held in Brockville on Boys' Work during 1913, 1914 and 1915 the church has been stimulated to greater efforts on behalf of the boy life of the community. The thought and inspiration of the past few days will be crystallized into energetic action on the part of the men of the various churches. It was pointed out that this can best be done by the formation of training in leadership classes in each church through which results would be conserved and leadership developed. The boys' mass meeting on Sunday afternoon was one of the best of the three of this nature held in Brockville during the past three years. The hard work and detail was completed by older boys and young men who



The Calgary High School Club. The Older Boys Training in Leadership Group.

Sixteen out of the eighteen members are now teaching Bible Study groups of younger Boys either in Sunday Schools or in the Young Men's Christian Association

have been developed through the co-operative efforts put forth on behalf of the boy life of the town during the past three years. The closing exercises were particularly impressive. The Boys' Mass Meeting and the Parents' Mass Meeting on the Sunday afternoon brought good results. A few of the conference statistics will be of interest:

Counties reached	2
Centres represented	34
Competitors in athletics	70
Forward Steps (many of which were decisions for Christ)	190
Total number of delegates	374

Since the latter part of September, Boys' Work Conferences have been held in Knowlton, Quebec, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg, where hundreds of "Forward Steps" were made by picked older boys.

Plans are under way for a series of conferences through Western Canada during March and April.

COMMUNITY WORK.

A. W. Briggs, Chairman.

Active Community Work of what may be termed the "supervised" kind may be seen in operation in Ontario, in Brockville, under Mr. W. H. Wood, and in "Oakville to Port Credit," under Mr. N. K. McKechnie. "Building Brockville Boys" has become more than a nice alliteration. The boys' camp, the playgrounds and the athletic meets of the summer attracted and held the boys for the night school and other educational features that have come in with the fall. Similarly in the "Oakville to Port Credit" field, evening classes begun a year ago under the impetus of the Community Movement have been reorganized after a summer's campaign that included a very successful Community Conference at Port Credit over Victoria Day, water sports on Dominion Day, a boys' camp at Clarkson and fine Children's Arts and Crafts Exhibitions at the local fall fairs.

The movement is spreading. It's in the air. Individual initiative may lose itself in awakened community activity; that's as it should be. But if we can by any expedient or experiment show the way to pastors and teachers and the multitude of men and women who see evils and weaknesses but do not know how to get together to remedy them, then the Association's Community Work will have accomplished its purpose.

The co-operation of Sunday School associations church boards and any other community betterment organizations as well as that of any individuals, is cordially invited. The opportunity of giving detailed help will be wel-

comed by Mr. Wood, Mr. McKechnie, Mr. Maclaren and the Chairman of the Community Work.

Cornwall lost Mr. Alex. Maclaren to the O. A. C., Guelph, with regret, and Pembroke was loathe to let Mr. E. D. Otter go to the Ontario Sunday School Association to take Mr. Orwig's place. As we go to press we learn of the resignation of Mr. McKechnie from the "Oakville to Port Credit" field to take a commission in an overseas battalion.

BIBLE STUDY DEPARTMENT.

E. C. Baker, Chairman.

Proposed changes in National Examinations and "Mills Trophy" Competition.

Some important changes have been under consideration and a draft of the proposed new regulations is given below. The Committee is anxious, however, that opportunity should be given for the fullest discussion and criticism before the new plan is finally decided upon. Boys' Work Secretaries and others who may be interested are urged to consider the recommendations carefully and write to the Committee, giving their judgment in the matter and their suggestions. All such communications which reach the Committee by January 1st, 1916, will receive the most careful consideration before a new basis of competition is finally adopted.

The purpose of the proposed plan is to make the basis of competition more equitable and to enable branches of the Association to participate where it was not possible for them to do so under the old plan. Heretofore the awards have been based on the actual number of diplomas obtained by boys making 75 per cent. or over. No credit has been given for boys who received less than 75 per cent. and none for attendance at the sessions of the class. There has been no provision for constituencies where our Secretaries are working without any Association membership or equipment. Under the proposed plan, these considerations are taken care of and a more equal competition made possible.

Beginning with the next examinations which will be held from March 27th to April 1st, 1916, the proposed method of awarding the Mills Trophy will be as follows:

1. The trophy will be awarded in six-month periods to the two Associations obtaining respectively:

(a) The largest number of points won in the competition as specified under section 4.

(b) The highest percentage of points on the basis stated in section 5.

2. Boys from 12 to 19 years of age are eligible.

3. The competition is open to all Association members. Non-members may also compete on the following conditions:

(a) They must be members of a mid-week Bible Study Class, a High School Club or a class taking up the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests programme.

(b) The examinations must be written under Association auspices and vouched for by the Secretary.

4. Points will be awarded as follows:

(a) Five points for each attendance at mid-week Bible Study Class.

(b) One hundred points possible on each examination.

(c) Attendance points count only for boys who write on examinations and the writer must have attended at least 50 per cent. of the weekly sessions of the class.

(d) Where a boy attends two short courses during one season, he may write on two examinations but only one shall count in the competition. Attendance points for both courses may be counted if both examinations are written.

(e) Points will not be allowed on an examination on which the writer has previously secured a mark of 75 per cent.

5. The basis for the award for the second six months shall be the highest percentage of points in comparison to the number of Protestant boys in the community. The number of boys to be determined by taking the Protestant population and figuring seven boys to each one hundred of population.

The above plan will enable the smaller places to take part in the competition. It also opens the examinations to High School Clubs and groups taking up the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests programme.

We urge upon all Secretaries the importance of the Bible Study groups where the boys may be brought into vital touch with our Lord and Master. The spiritual part of our programme is the greatest and most vital. Let us, in dependence on Him, seek to enlarge it this season.

CANADIAN STANDARD EFFICIENCY TESTS COMING STRONG!

R. C. Dingman, Chairman.

At the Peterboro Boys' Work Conference last week, one of the ministers of that city told his congregation that he considered the Boys' Conferences the greatest work that the church is doing in Canada at the present time. In this connection, it is interesting to note that the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests

were the central theme of both the London and Peterboro Conferences this year, as they are of practically all the conferences that are being conducted in Canada by the Advisory Co-operative Committees. As an indication of how the Standard Efficiency plan is going, one should remember that last month's Canadian Manhood announced the appearance of the latest edition of the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests handbook. That edition of 5,000 copies is already practically gone and the eighth edition will shortly be off the press.

A letter just received as this article is being written says: "The Standard Efficiency Tests programme is already being taken up by several of the churches here." That refers, of course, to one city only, but the same leaven has, of course, gone out through other parts of the Province.

Mr. Roberts pointed out at the Conferences that the Standard Efficiency Tests programme calls for a high type of leadership. The question has been raised whether the tests, therefore, are suited for rural localities. The answer is, Yes! It does mean, however, that the leader in such places may have difficulty in finding capable men to help in the various parts of the programme but if these to a considerable extent are lacking, the leader has, of course, greater need of self-development. There is no question, however, that with the many inexpensive booklets that may now be had covering the various parts of the tests, almost any leader can fit himself to give such practical talks as he cannot secure another man to undertake. The special articles appearing in East and West and other Presbyterian publications, are most helpful.

Incidentally, and here is something for leaders to remember, as the leader plans these courses for his group, he is also indirectly giving himself the benefit of a splendid system of self-improvement.

Perhaps the Association Brotherhood, secretarial and lay, do not know of the many fine things that are being said of this great invention—the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests. One of these testimonials was publicly expressed recently in Winnipeg by one of the prominent ministers in about these words:

"For some time, a group of ministers in the Methodist Churches in Canada who believe in religious education have been talking about the need of a curriculum of religious education for our Sunday Schools. Yesterday, I dropped into the Boys' Work Conference which is being held in this city and received the greatest surprise that has come to me in years, for, right before my eyes, a demonstration was being made of the very thing we have been looking for, but which I did not expect would be realized in less than ten years. As you know, I have been giving considerable thought to this phase of the church's work. I have always maintained that the ministry of the Sunday School would some day be of greater value than the ministry of the pulpit. In the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests I recognized a plan of work for boys which is not only comprehensive but fundamentally correct. It stands on the sound basis of modern psychology and at the same time is so closely related to the personality of Jesus Christ that it will satisfy the most dogmatic believer in Christianity. I consider it one of the most marvelous inventions of the age. I am glad to know that it is a Canadian product. We can little imagine what this will mean to our country when the ministers and Sunday School workers appreciate its value in developing Christian character in our Canadian youth."

The impression made on another great Western leader is indicated in the following bulletin board notice posted up by the President of the University of Saskatchewan:

"Students will be excused from lectures today from two to three o'clock in order to permit them to attend Dr. Statten's lecture.

"WALTER C. MURRAY,
"President."

Just in passing it should be noted that one of these days some Canadian university is going to distinguish itself by permanently attaching that title to the name of the recognized leader of Canadian boys' work.

It is not possible in this brief notice to say much about the system in detail. Three great features, however, are: First, the all-round development which it provides for; second, the charting method which gives the point of contact and provides a method of checking up the boy's advance each year or at other periods; and third, the progressive nature of the programme which provides for carrying a boy entirely through the teen age in a systematic and progressive course of character building.

One occasionally hears of a Boys' Work Secretary who claims that this programme is too comprehensive. We admit that it is too big for some men to handle but that type of man will soon be superceded by those who are capable of giving it the required leadership.

In the three Associations in Toronto sixty-one groups of boys are following it out to the letter as outlined in the handbook. Tests are being made and records placed in the back pages of the handbook each week.

DAILY BIBLE READING.

F. L. Farewell, Chairman.

At a meeting of the National Boys' Work Committee held in Peterboro during the Conference at which representative Boys' Work Secretaries were also present, the whole plan

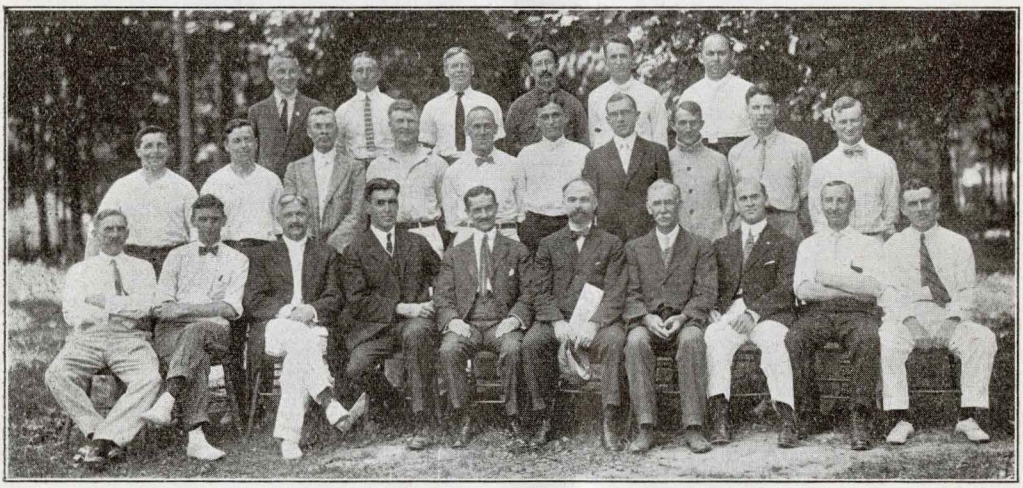
of Daily Bible Readings for boys was thoroughly discussed with the result that the next issue of Readings will commence an entirely new series.

The Comments on the Bible passages will be chosen with a view to their fitting into the Standard Efficiency Test programme which places needed emphasis upon this vitally important feature. They will be written by men who are closely in touch with Canadian boy life and will be edited by a committee who will take the utmost pains to see that the language and ideas are thoroughly adapted to meet the needs of boys 15 to 19 years of age.

Each booklet will contain readings for two months, and the subscription price will be 25c. per year for single copies, or 20c. per year for clubs of ten or more copies, mailed to one address.

The coming of New Year offers a unique opportunity for the promotion of this vital phase of our National Boys' Work. Several Associations will make a strong appeal at the Watch Night Service held for Older Boys. If every Boys' Work Secretary in Canada would plan to hold such a meeting and give it this definite purpose we could start the year with a great group of "Keepers of the Morning Watch." Sample copies of the new booklet will be sent to each Association as soon as they are on the press. Leaders of Organized Boys' Classes who feel the value of promoting daily devotional Bible reading among boys may secure sample copies of the matter published by this Committee by mailing a postcard request for same to the National Council, Y.M.C.A., 15 Toronto Street, Toronto.

One of the boys who attended the Peterboro' Boys' Work Conference was so impressed with the value and importance of keeping "The Morning Watch" that he made this the main feature of his report. The result was that the class as a whole decided to take up the Daily Bible Readings and immediately placed a subscription for fifty copies for the next year. This is a good example for other live classes to follow.



The Faculty of the Training School at Lake Couchiching, 1915.

FOREIGN WORK DEPARTMENT OF Y.M.C.A.

THE FINANCIAL NEED.

The International Committee through its Foreign Work Department is continuing its great programme of Christian service in other lands with many evidences of success and with much more to encourage than discourage. The financial problem is especially difficult owing in part to disturbed conditions resulting from the war and it is hoped that our Canadian Associations will not fail to continue their hearty response to this great world service. A recent report from New York told of $172,000 being required by December 31st.

"In November, 1914, Mr. Sherwood Eddy conducted evangelistic meetings in Hong Kong, this being the fourth occasion on which he held such meetings here. When first he came a handful of people only heard him. On the second visit the largest attendance on any one evening was less than 1,000. The third time 2,000 were present one evening, but during his visit last November 4,500 attended on two successive evenings. We believe also that the increase in results kept pace with the increase in attendance.

"The Association in preparing for the meetings had the hearty co-operation of all the Chinese churches and after they were over

Group of Army Officers Listening to an Explanation of Baseball.

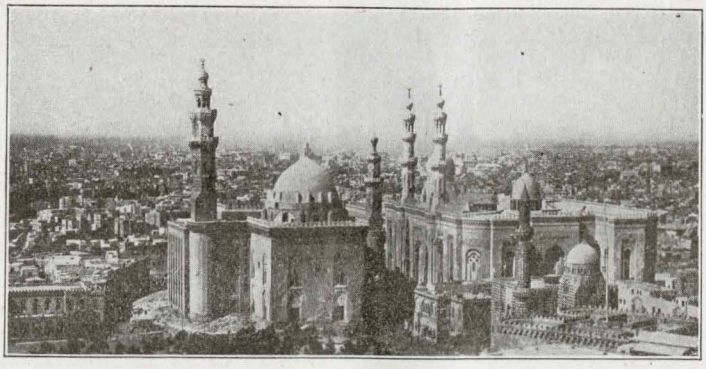
SOME INTERESTING NEWS.

W. M. Hume, Educational Secretary at Lahore, India, reports 215 students in the evening continuation classes in addition to sixty men in special classes. The Government shows its approval by an appropriation this year of about $2,500. The Lieut.-Governor, Sir Michael O'Dwyer, has become the Patron of this Association. The President is Sir Edward Maclagan, the second highest official in the Punjab and a sterling Christian man.

Mr. McConnell, General Secretary, was released for work with the battalion of British soldiers (Territorials) stationed at Lahore. Similar work has been started at seventeen other army posts in India and on the whole has been a tremendous success.

J. L. McPherson, General Secretary at Hong Kong, China, writes that the secretarial staff there has been greatly strengthened by the addition of two native secretaries. He continues:

Bible classes were started in the churches as well as at the Association. During the meetings 976 signed cards indicating their desire to study the Bible and 790 of them were visited afterwards; 707 attended at least one session and 478 of this number continued as bona fide members of the Bible classes. At the end of a course of study decision meetings were held at which 175 indicated that they wished to follow Christ. Many of them were students too young to be baptised without the consent of their parents but as far as possible they have been kept in Bible study in connection with the churches of their choice. Forty-one, pretty well distributed among the different denominations, have already been baptised. Not long ago I asked a leading man in one of the churches if he was satisfied with the results of the meetings as far as his church was concerned. He replied that every month since the meetings men were deciding for Christ and were being baptised and that the work was just as earnest now as at the close of the meetings."



Cairo, the Most Important New Post Occupied by the Foreign Department in 1913.

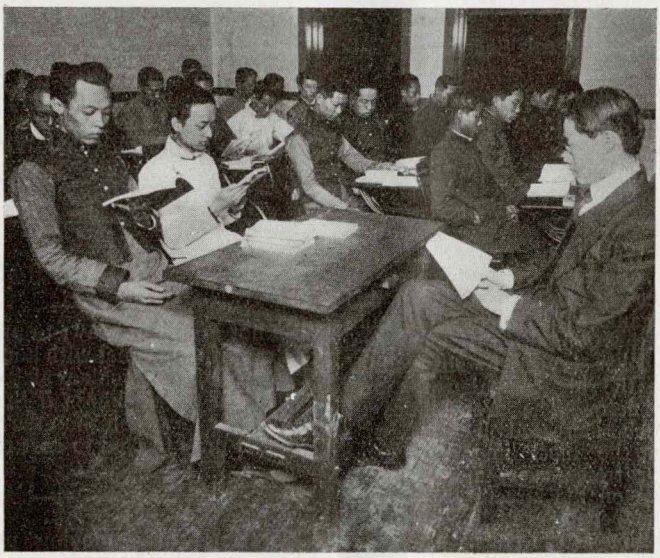
Hong Kong sent twenty-nine athletes to the Far Eastern Championship Games and of these twenty were members of the Association. These men won forty of the fifty-three medals given.

The membership numbers 1,012 with 307 in Bible classes. Forty-one men were baptised. The Association closed its year without a debt.

Charles S. Paterson, Boys' Work Secretary, Calcutta, India, reports:

"The most momentous issue of the year has of course been the war. The Association has done much towards the welfare of the Indian troops in France, of the expeditionary force in Mesopotamia and of the large number of Territorial troops stationed in India for the period of the war. The manning of all these posts has seriously depleted the staffs of the Associations in India and large numbers of the best Indian young men in the colleges have volunteered for duty. Calcutta has sent several men and while none of them have been directly connected with the Boys' Branch, yet we have felt that they are a part of our united movement and we have rejoiced at their opportunity for service."

The honorary members are boys over the age limit but who retain an interest. They highly prize the privilege and render efficient service.



A Typical Student Bible Class.

"At the Annual Prize Distribution, the Hon. Mr. P. C. Lyon, C.S.I., I.C.S., one of the chief secretaries to the Government of Bengal, presided in spite of a broken leg in plaster and a tropical storm at the appointed hour that kept away most of the audience. In his remarks at the close of the proceedings, he paid a high tribute to the work of the branch, commended it to all parents and expressed a desire to do anything in his power to further its interests."

JUSTIFYING ITS EXISTENCE.

The New York Outlook in the issue of November 17th makes commendatory editorial comment on the educational programme of the West Side Association of New York City and concludes as follows: "In providing young men with lodgings, restaurants, recreation rooms, and these varied opportunities for becoming productive members of the community, as well as in promoting their moral and spiritual welfare, the Association is certainly justifying its existence.

PERSONALS.

Changes since last issue.

C. K. Dudley, General Secretary, Ignace, to Punxsutawney.

D. A. Loomis, Physical Director, St. Catharines, enlisted.

Robert Pearson, General Secretary, Calgary, enlisted.

T. D. Patton, General Secretary, Winnipeg, to Supervising Military Secretary, Winnipeg.

H. R. Hadcock, Acting Secretary, Winnipeg.

Mr. George A. Warburton, Toronto's Metropolitan Y.M.C.A. Secretary, has become an outstanding force in Ontario through his ability as an organizer of worth-while campaigns, and now the Committee of One Hundred have secured his services by six months' loan to organize the big campaign for prohibition by July next. The probabilities of winning are much increased by this wise action. This is the most important fight against the liquor traffic ever undertaken in Ontario and "men on the street" are predicting victory if the people are allowed to express their conviction at the polls. The prayers of the Association brotherhood will go with Mr. Warburton and the Committee for a successful issue.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of the young men and boys of our Associations in Canada.

Of course, we cannot be as we have been on other Christmas days, for now we have the shadow of this awful war over us, but we certainly can rejoice that we live in a country where peace prevails at home, although we are involved in the war abroad.

In Toronto we have adopted as our slogan for this year, "Sacrifice and Service," and all of the Associations of the country are, I am sure, actuated by the same idea. May we not each of us manifest the same spirit in our personal lives. The German Kaiser has not only slaughtered large numbers of our fellow-citizens, the flower of Canada's young manhood, but he has also slain the spirit of selfishness among all the people. We do not think as we did in August, 1914, but everywhere people are thinking of others and their needs, and of the demands of the nation.

Then, what a chance our Associations are having to show their unselfishness in the work they are doing among the soldiers. Every boy and young man in our membership should have a share and something that involves a degree of self-sacrifice which he has never known before. Our Boards of Directors and our Committees should lead in this work, and the whole membership should follow loyally. We must not let the regular duties be neglected, but perform them with a new and better spirit.

Then, let us constantly pray for one another, that each of us in his place may correctly interpret the spirit and teaching of Christ to the suffering and bewildered world. Surely, if we rise to the altitude of the angels who sang above the plains of Bethlehem, we may still be able to believe that their prophetic song will yet be fulfilled:

"Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

G. A. WARBURTON.

EVER PRAY.

"Be not afraid to pray; to pray is right;
Pray, if thou canst with hope, but ever pray,
Though hope be weak or sick with long delay;
Pray in the darkness if there be no light;
And if for any wish thou dare not pray
Then pray to God to cast that wish away."

—*Coleridge.*

Meetings in a moving picture house in Winnipeg brought audiences of 700; 52 per cent. were non-church attendants. The straight gospel took as well as the pictures.

"THE SECOND MILE."

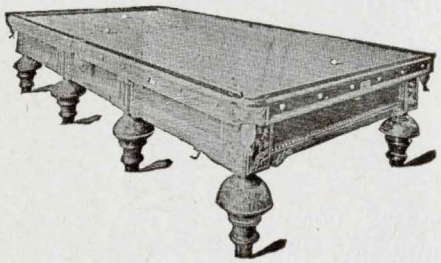
"The men with lifting power have always been men who served regardless of the right of the recipient to demand it, regardless of his moral worth, regardless of his personal ingratitude—who served for only one reason, the love of serving."

"The roll-call of the world's spiritual heroes reveals not a single one-mile man. For no man ever saved anybody, or served any great cause, or left any enduring impress who was not willing to forget indignities, bear no grudges. All of saviorhood lies in the second mile."

Fasdick's, "The Second Mile."

AN APT PUPIL.

A live boy delivered some printed matter late in the afternoon to the young woman stenographer in our office. He asked if she must send out the matter then, and upon being told, "Yes, I must," cheerfully volunteered to help. After a few minutes the stenographer said: "It's too bad to keep you so long. You'll want to get home for supper." "Oh, that's all right," came the prompt response. "You see, I belong to Broadview Y.M.C.A., and our Secretary tells us to try and help others."



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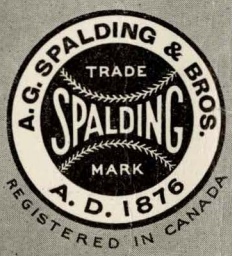

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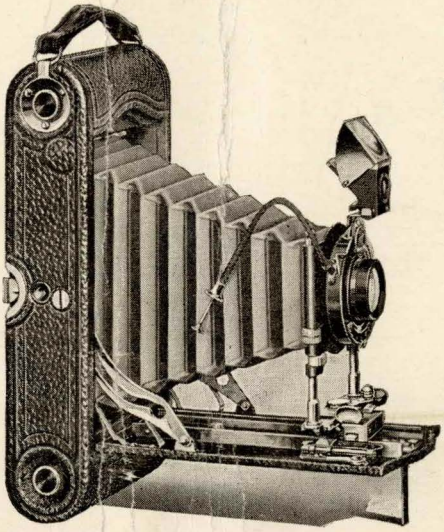

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